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Letter dated 21 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Spain has the honour to transmit the summary of the founding meeting of the Women and Peace and Security National Focal Points Network, held on 23 September 2016 and chaired by the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (see annex I), and the joint communiqué adopted at that meeting (see annex II).

This initiative was announced as one of the national commitments that Spain undertook in relation to the women and peace and security agenda, as announced at the high-level review of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), which took place in October 2015.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Román **Oyarzun**
Permanent Representative

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Annex I to the letter dated 21 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English]

Founding meeting of the Women and Peace and Security National Focal Points Network (23 September 2016, at United Nations Headquarters)

Summary note

On 23 September 2016, the founding meeting of the Women and Peace and Security National Focal Points Network was held at the margins of the general debate of the General Assembly of the United Nations. The meeting was organized by Spain with the co-sponsorship of Canada, Chile, Japan, Namibia and the United Arab Emirates.

The creation of the Network stems from the recognition that Member States and regional organizations remain the most influential actors in the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda, as underlined in the global study for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). They are the ones with the primary responsibility to ensure that global commitments and obligations are integrated into domestic policies and legislations.

The aim of establishing the Women and Peace and Security National Focal Points Network is to strengthen the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda at the origin of the decision-making process, by assisting Member States and regional organizations through the exchange of best practices, as well as by improving the coordination of funding and assistance programmes.

The Network will meet once a year in one of its Member States, and there will be a follow-up meeting in New York at the margins of the annual debate of the Security Council on women and peace and security. An update on the Network's secretariat and on forthcoming meetings will be given in the near future.

The founding meeting began with a ministerial segment, with the participation of 18 ministers and vice-ministers of the founding countries, the European Union Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, the African Union Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, as well as with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and an Assistant Secretary-General for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). The ministerial segment was followed by a technical discussion among the already-designated national and regional focal points, as well as civil society representatives.

At the end of the meeting a joint communiqué, signed by 41 Member States and three regional organizations, was adopted.

The following are some of the points raised during the founding meeting:

1. There is a need to strengthen the relation between the women and peace and security agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

as they mutually reinforce each other, particularly in relation to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals 5 and 16. Special attention should be paid to the coordination of assistance programmes.

2. The key role played by civil society in the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda obligations and commitments was underlined. As they are often the ones working in the field and at the local level, they have the ability to better identify the arising challenges and problems, as well as to measure the real impact of the measures taken. Thus, it is important to "localize" the women and peace and security agenda, and the assistance programmes in order to achieve concrete results.

3. Women play a crucial role in bolstering conflict prevention. In the short term they can lead efforts aimed at pre-emptive dialogue and act as early warning systems. In the long term, they can provide a more comprehensive understanding of the causes and solutions to a conflict, as well as promote actions aimed at solving it. The Network should pay attention and promote best practices related to this dimension of the women and peace and security agenda.

4. There is a need to understand that women are not only victims of conflicts, but also agents for peace.

5. Women and peace and security is a cross-cutting issue. Gender expertise is needed in all areas, including climate change, security sector reform, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes and development.

6. Some countries referred to the need to explore and promote the positive role that women can play in countering violent extremism, as well as increasing a deeper understanding of the drivers of this phenomenon and the participation of women in it.

7. Although the foreign affairs and international cooperation perspectives of this agenda are important, all countries should strive to develop and promote the agenda at the domestic level as well, by complying with the commitments and obligations internally.

8. Women and peace and security national action plans and strategies are one of the main tools available to improve the implementation of the agenda. The Network should dedicate efforts to spread and improve their use by Members States and regional organizations. It was suggested that one of the Network's annual meetings could focus on the specific subject of the implementation of national action plans.

9. United Nations-wide efforts are needed in order to successfully implement the women and peace and security agenda. Some countries mentioned the importance of working with the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations on peacekeeping-related issues like the appointment of gender advisors to the missions, as well as to stress the priority of the women and peace and security agenda in the budgetary discussions of the Fifth Committee.

10. Successful national, regional and international women and peace and security policies will need efficient monitoring and accountability mechanisms in order to measure the real impact of our efforts.

11. The Network, which provides a framework for a strong coalition on women and peace and security, has an important role to play in coordinating and improving national and regional efforts, as well as in identifying the main gaps in the implementation of the agenda.

12. Looking forward, Spain will organize the first yearly meeting of the Network in 2017. Germany offered to host the following meeting, in 2018.

Annex II to the letter dated 21 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English]

Founding meeting of the Women and Peace and Security National Focal Points Network

Joint communiqué

We, the Ministers and High-level Representatives of Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Namibia, the Netherlands, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay, as well as of the African Union, the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, have come together in New York on 23 September 2016, to launch the Women and Peace and Security National Focal Points Network in the recognition that national and regional efforts are vital for the full and effective implementation and coordination of the women and peace and security agenda.

As the founding members of the Network, we affirm our commitment to advance women's participation in decision-making in peace and security processes in order to enhance the sustainability and effectiveness of all conflict prevention and resolution efforts, as well as women's participation in national-level peace and security policies and programmes.

We also affirm, as highlighted at the high-level review of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) conducted in October 2015, that Member States and regional organizations remain the most influential actors in the implementation of all women and peace and security Security Council resolutions and, as such, have the primary responsibility for integrating women and peace and security commitments into domestic policies and normative frameworks.

As founding members, we encourage all Member States and regional organizations to appoint women and peace and security national focal points. A focal point is expected to exercise a leading role in women and peace and security efforts at the national or regional level and to maintain direct and ongoing contact with other focal points to streamline implementation of the agenda, exchange best practices and harmonize international efforts, including assistance programmes.

Recognizing that the fulfilment of these objectives currently requires a closer coordination among Member States and regional organizations, we created the Women and Peace and Security National Focal Points Network as a cross-regional forum aiming at providing a space to periodically share and exchange lessons learned and best practices, including on how to develop and review high-impact national strategies to advance these objectives; on how to integrate gender analysis in all security assessments and prevention approaches; on how to strengthen

women's participation in the security sector, peace processes and mediation efforts; and on how to address conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence.

This Network will be also an important tool for identifying and promoting partnerships with civil society and local organizations working on women and peace and security issues; for encouraging predictable and sustained funding for women and peace and security efforts; for promoting capacity-building at local, national and regional levels for a variety of actors working on women, peace and security; for promoting the development and implementation of high-impact national action plans on women and peace and security; and for aligning such national women and peace and security strategies with related strategies and policies, such as those aimed at preventing and countering violent extremism.

Recognizing that the Network's momentum and sustainability require Member State leadership and routine collaboration, focal points will meet biannually, once in a capital and once on the sidelines of the annual women and peace and security open debate of the Security Council. The first meeting of the Women and Peace and Security National Focal Points Network will be held in Spain in 2017, followed by another one at the margins of the 2017 annual women, peace and security open debate.

As States fully committed to advancing the women, peace and security agenda, we trust that the Focal Points Network will substantially contribute to translating words into effective results.

United Nations A/71/570

General Assembly

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Seventy-first session
Item 134
Programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

Proposal for the seismic mitigation retrofit and life-cycle replacements project at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific premises in Bangkok

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the proposal for the seismic mitigation retrofit and life-cycle replacements project at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) premises in Bangkok (A/71/333 and Corr.1). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses dated 13 October 2016.

2. The report of the Secretary-General is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/248 A, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at the main part of its seventy-first session an updated proposal on the project and costing estimates for multiphase and single-phase implementation methods, including an option to address the seismic risk on its own and an option in combination with renovation, life-cycle replacement or other works, ensuring the most cost-effective and efficient method of implementation.

II. Seismic risk and existing conditions of buildings at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific premises at Bangkok

3. The report of the Secretary-General states that both the secretariat and service buildings of ESCAP were built in the early 1970s and do not conform to current

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Thai seismic codes. It also states that the overarching objective of the project is to comply with seismic and other fire and life-safety codes for the premises, although the project also provides opportunities for the most cost-effective method to address other long-term benefits related to building performance, energy conservation, space usage and the life-cycle replacement of building systems that will be at or beyond their useful lives by 2025 (see A/71/333, paras. 5 to 7 and 30).

4. With respect to the seismic risk, the report indicates that the peak ground acceleration for ESCAP is classified as having a moderate potential to cause damage to resistant structures, and a moderate to heavy potential to cause damage to vulnerable structures. Coupled with the particular soil and bedrock characteristics of the Bangkok area, which could magnify the seismic forces and make the threat significant, seismic activity could cause severe damage to or even complete collapse of structures, such as the secretariat building. The report states that a seismic evaluation report in 2014 found that seismic mitigation measures would be necessary for both the secretariat and service buildings to ensure compliance with the current design standards for seismic resistance that are considered necessary for the safety of their users. That analysis was confirmed in another study conducted in 2016 (see A/71/333, paras. 9 to 11 and 19 to 21). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, during the past 10 years, more than 80 significant earthquakes had impacted Thailand; half of those had occurred during the past three years, which indicated an increasing frequency in seismic activity. The Committee was further informed that an analysis of seismic activity from 1912 to 2007 showed that several earthquakes measuring higher than 6.0 on the Richter scale were located fewer than 200 km from Bangkok.

5. With regard to hazardous materials, the report states that an assessment conducted in 2016 indicates a minimal presence of asbestos-containing materials confined to the lower basements, with restricted access, and is therefore not considered a major health risk at present, although the retrofit would address that issue. The report also indicates that life-cycle replacement works would be required, including the exterior marble cladding of the secretariat building and the glazing systems of both the secretariat and service buildings (see A/71/333, paras. 24, 26 and 27).

6. General Assembly resolution 70/248 A requested the Secretary-General to provide specific information about possible measures to be taken to eliminate physical, communications or technical barriers to persons with disabilities at ESCAP, while ensuring compliance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Secretary-General indicates that a comprehensive review would be conducted during project planning (phase 2) in 2017, which would address physical, sight, hearing and cognitive disabilities, with the goal of all-access design, signage, access aids, doors, furniture and office layouts, controls (namely lighting area control) and fire egress (see A/71/333, para. 25). **The Advisory Committee trusts that the results of the comprehensive review will be factored into all stages of the project to facilitate access to the premises and participation in meetings and other activities by persons with disabilities.**

7. **The Advisory Committee notes the importance of addressing the seismic threat at ESCAP premises for the health and safety of users of the buildings. The Committee also notes that life-cycle replacement works would be required**

for the secretariat and service buildings, which were built in the early 1970s and are nearing the end of their useful lives.

III. Proposed options of the Secretary-General

8. Paragraph 49 of the report sets out the objectives of the proposed project at ESCAP, including maintaining the property value of United Nations premises, especially as it relates to building life-cycle replacement, and meeting industry norms related to health and safety issues and facilities preparedness.

9. The Secretary-General proposes four options for the proposed project (under all four options, the pre-construction phase would take place in 2017 and 2018 and comprise planning, design and tender, and construction would take place from 2019 onward):

(a) Option A, amounting to $37.77 million, would address seismic and associated costs only, in one phase over four years. The project would comprise one cycle of works with a duration of two years (2019-2020) requiring the emptying of the entire secretariat building. Under that option, no space redesign would be undertaken and therefore there would be no benefit of space efficiency;

(b) Option B, amounting to $23.70 million, would address seismic and associated costs only, with a phased implementation over five years. The project would comprise four cycles of work with a duration of nine months each, with total construction lasting three years (2019-2021). Each cycle would require emptying four floors of the secretariat building at a time. Under that option, no space redesign would be undertaken and therefore there would be no benefit of space efficiency;

(c) Option C, amounting to $40.02 million, would entail combined seismic and associated costs and life-cycle replacement components, with a phased implementation over six years. The construction phase would comprise four cycles of work with a duration of 12 months each and would last four years (2019-2022). Each cycle would require emptying four floors of the secretariat building at a time. The option would include a complete redesign of office layouts to achieve space efficiencies;

(d) Option D, amounting to $40.84 million, would entail combined seismic and associated costs and life-cycle replacement components, with a phased implementation over eight years. The option envisages eight cycles of work with a duration of nine months each, with total construction lasting six years (2019-2024). Each cycle would require emptying two floors of the secretariat building at a time. The option would include a complete redesign of office layouts to achieve space efficiencies (see A/71/333, para. 51 and table 4).

10. Paragraphs 61 to 71 of the report provide information on the cost-benefit analysis and the risk assessment of the four options. According to the Secretary-General, implementing option A would put ESCAP at the highest risk in relation to business continuity and would incur the highest cumulative loss in rental income from tenants, estimated at $890,000. The report states that option C would have the lowest risk score.

11. The Secretary-General recommends option C, which he considers to be the most cost-effective solution with the lowest risk score. The report also states that option C would provide benefits for ESCAP operations including a 16 to 18 per cent enhancement of energy efficiency, improvement in space efficiency of 20 per cent and a $540,000 projected annual increase in rental income (see A/71/333, para. 72). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that performing the seismic mitigation retrofit in parallel with the life-cycle replacements would avoid the duplication of fixed costs such as overhead, mobilization and safety measures for the construction phase, and project management and swing space costs. The Committee was further informed that should option C be approved, the renovated buildings would have an expected useful life of an additional 50 years from the time of completion.

12. **The Advisory Committee commends the Secretary-General on an improved report and welcomes the fact that different options have been presented for consideration. Having considered the four options, the Committee is of the view that it would be more cost-effective to undertake the seismic and life-cycle replacement works simultaneously, and therefore recommends against options A and B. Noting that option D would take two years longer than option C, and incur a higher cost, the Committee recommends option C as the most viable option for the seismic mitigation retrofit and life-cycle replacements project at ESCAP, subject to its recommendations and observations below on the related cost estimates.**

IV. Project cost estimates

13. Table 4 of the report sets out the cost estimates for the proposed project. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with a detailed breakdown of the project costs under option C in the amount of $40.02 million (see annex).

Escalation and contingency estimates

14. The report indicates that allowance for escalation has been added to the construction costs and consultancy estimates, at a rate of 4 per cent per annum, based on a forward projection of published data on recent past escalation rates, and based on the advice of a specialist cost consultant. The baseline for the estimate is July 2016, and the estimated escalation is compounded and applied to the annual expenditure projections. The report also indicates that the contingency provision was developed on the basis of a traditional percentage method, taking into consideration past experience with similar projects and other variables that may have an impact on the accuracy of the project cost estimates. For planning purposes, a contingency provision of 10 per cent of the estimated construction cost of the project, inclusive of consultancy fees, has been included (see A/71/333, paras. 55 and 56).

15. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, while the contingency is not yet specific in regard to identified risks, the independent risk-management firm would analyse identified project risks by estimating their likelihood of occurrence and determining their impact costs, as well as the costs for management responses. The Committee was also informed that contingency

allowances would only be granted to resolve project uncertainties and to fill possible gaps with regard to the delivery of the established project scope; contingency allowances would not be used to finance any increase in scope unless otherwise approved by the General Assembly. The Committee was also informed that clear mechanisms, procedures and controls would be established to utilize the funds, and that it was not the intent of the Secretary-General to spend all of the contingency provisions, but rather to execute the project as much as possible within the approved budgetary resources, excluding contingency provisions.

16. The Advisory Committee has previously made recommendations and observations in relation to escalation and contingency estimates in construction project proposals (see A/70/7/Add.8, paras. 41 to 52, and A/70/7/Add.21, paras. 49 to 54). **The Committee reiterates that, in order to ensure transparency in reporting, the contingency and the escalation estimates should be presented separately from other project costs.**

17. **The Advisory Committee also reiterates that the risk analysis applied to a pre-determined contingency amount based on fixed percentages does not represent an actual risk-based estimation of the project contingency level. The Committee therefore recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to refine the estimation of project contingencies by basing it on the identification of risks associated with the different phases of the project, both foreseen and unforeseen, and to separate the estimated contingencies from the base project cost in the presentation of his next progress report.**

18. **In addition, the Advisory Committee reiterates that contingency estimates for each phase of project implementation should be clearly indicated so that the contingency estimates and their use, if necessary, remain transparent throughout the life of the project. The Committee is also of the view that a systematic approach to managing and reporting on the use of project contingency funds should be applied so that the unused project contingency amount from one phase of the project is not carried over to the next phase. The Committee therefore recommends that unused contingency amounts be determined and returned to Member States at the completion of each phase of the project.**

Swing space requirements

19. Table 2 of the report indicates that, for option C, 4,800 m^2 of swing space would be required. The report states that ESCAP has identified 1,200 m^2 of temporary swing space on site on the ESCAP premises, and the remaining space needs of 3,600 m^2 would be met by host country contributions and/or commercially leased space. The report also states that the host country has advised ESCAP of one swing space option of up to 3,200 m^2 at the Government Complex located approximately 30 km north of ESCAP (see A/71/333, paras. 14 and 44 and table 2). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that if the host country agreed to provide the swing space at no cost, the swing space costs could be reduced by $3.15 million, which is the amount currently factored in for off-site swing space (see annex). **The Advisory Committee welcomes the positive steps taken towards engaging with the host country, and encourages ESCAP to continue the discussions on cooperation with the host country, including on the provision of swing space.**

Energy and space efficiencies

20. According to the Secretary-General, a study to review the current layout of the space at ESCAP highlighted that, by applying the capital master plan guidelines, ESCAP could gain 20 per cent in space efficiency if a renovation of the interior office space were to be implemented. In addition, because the office space would be converted from enclosed to open offices, the new configuration would be well suited to adopt flexible workplace strategies to achieve additional efficiency. The report also indicates that, by improving the insulation and glazing at the secretariat building, improvement in energy efficiency may be achieved with combined energy savings in the range of 16 to 18 per cent, as compared with existing conditions (see A/71/333, paras. 35 to 39).

21. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed of savings from potential energy efficiency in the amount of $84,615 per year, while the potential space efficiency of 20 per cent could provide an additional $540,000 in rental income, amounting to savings per year of $624,615. The Committee was further informed that the potential savings from energy and space efficiencies and future rental income had not been applied towards the costs of the project. **In line with its previous recommendations on other construction projects, the Advisory Committee considers that the General Assembly may wish to request the Secretary-General to reflect future rental income in his next report. The Committee is of the view that space and energy efficiencies should also be included in project planning.**

22. With respect to flexible workplace strategies, the Advisory Committee was informed upon enquiry that ESCAP could only assess and quantify the potential gain from flexible workplace efficiencies after a change management exercise at ESCAP and the workplace space requirements study expected to be completed by 2018. **As with space and energy efficiencies above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to include flexible workplace strategies and related efficiency gains in project planning, and to reflect that information in his next report.**

Voluntary contributions

23. In its resolution 70/248 A, the General Assembly encouraged the Secretary-General to seek voluntary contributions and to report thereon in the context of the next report. The report of the Secretary-General states that ESCAP solicited assistance and support for the project from Member States in the form of voluntary contributions, either in-kind by way of technical experts or sharing lessons learned, or other contributions such as loans. The report states that several Member States have responded to the request, with some showing interest in providing support for the project (see A/71/333, paras. 15 and 16). **The Advisory Committee encourages the Secretary-General to engage further with Member States to seek voluntary contributions for the project.**

24. **In the light of its observations and recommendations above, the Advisory Committee is not in a position at the present stage to recommend approval of the Secretary-General's proposed cost estimates for option C in the amount of $40.02 million. The Committee instead recommends that the General Assembly**

request the Secretary-General to provide an update of cost estimates for option C in his next report.

V. Project governance

25. The report states that the project owner would be the Executive Secretary of ESCAP, and the Director of the Division of Administration would be the Project Executive, responsible for managing the dedicated project management team, interacting with internal and external stakeholders and handling strategic issues requiring senior-level decision-making. Day-to-day project execution would be under the leadership of the dedicated Project Manager. A stakeholders committee would be established to provide the Executive Secretary with advice and guidance with respect to the operational aspects of the project, but would not be able to make changes that would affect the project scope, schedule or cost. The committee would be composed of representatives from ESCAP, other secretariat offices at ESCAP premises, external entities and the Office of Central Support Services at United Nations Headquarters in New York (see A/71/333, paras. 73 to 75).

26. The Secretary-General indicates that, since the programme requirements of the ESCAP project are relatively straightforward, he would not propose the establishment of an Advisory Board for the project (see A/71/333, para. 76). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that Advisory Boards had previously been established for projects in which the scope was partly related to conferencing and historic preservation, for which the input of Member States, as direct clients or end users of the works, was essential. The Committee was also informed that, since the ESCAP project entailed only the renovation of non-historic office space for staff, the input of Member States related to the heritage of the Organization and their own needs for the space was not required. As for the governance role of Advisory Boards, the Committee was informed upon enquiry that, with the newly established enhanced role of the Office of Central Support Services for oversight and independent risk management, there would be appropriate and adequate overall governance for the project.

27. With respect to the role of the Office of Central Support Services, the report states that the Office would provide overall project oversight, including by providing ESCAP with technical guidance and advice on the project, ensuring that the project complies with overall organizational objectives and sharing lessons learned from other capital projects. The Office would also have a lead role in providing independent risk-management services through a specialist risk-management firm for expert services and a quantitative risk assessment (A/71/333, paras. 78 and 79). The General Assembly, in its resolution 70/248 A, emphasized the importance of guidance, interaction and coordination between the Secretariat in New York and ESCAP, with clear reporting lines. **The Advisory Committee stresses the continued importance of close coordination between ESCAP and the Secretariat in New York, including the Office of Central Support Services, to ensure proper oversight and governance of the project.**

VI. Resource requirements

28. The report indicates that the project team would be led by the Project Manager (P-5) and would comprise one Project Engineer (P-4), one Civil and Structural Engineer (P-3) and one Project Administrative Assistant (Local level) starting from 1 January 2017, as well as one Building Mechanical-Electrical-Plumbing Engineer (National Officer), one Logistics and Coordination Officer (National Officer) and one Safety Project Officer (Local level) starting from 1 January 2019. The project support team would comprise one Procurement Officer (P-3) from January 2017 until the contract signature, and one Security Officer (Local level) and one Information Technology Assistant (Local level) for each of the swing space locations. According to the Secretary-General, as Option C may entail two off-site swing space locations, two Security Officers and two Information Technology Assistants may be required, depending on the swing space arrangements (see A/71/333, paras. 81 and 82; see also annex to the present document).

29. In addition, it is envisaged that 50 per cent of the cost of a Project Coordinator (P-4) would be required for the duration of the project. The position would be based in the Office of Central Support Services and equally cost-shared between ESCAP and the Economic Commission for Africa (A/71/333, para. 82). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Project Coordinator would provide professional support and advice to the Chief of the Overseas Properties Management Unit in the Office of Central Support Services to ensure an appropriate oversight framework for monitoring and controlling project implementation in compliance with Organizational rules and regulations, and in line with industry best practices and previous lessons learned. The Committee was also informed that the Project Coordinator would support contract management of the independent risk-management firm and provide input for the development of key governance documents. The Committee's observations and recommendations on the Project Coordinator position in respect of the Africa Hall project are contained in its related report (see A/71/571). **While the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposed Project Coordinator (P-4) position, the Committee considers that the next report of the Secretary-General should explain the impact on the cost-sharing arrangement in the event that one project is completed before the other.**

30. The report states that, as part of the project management team, consultants, contractors and suppliers would be required for the provision of seismic engineering, architectural and engineering design and construction management services, including seismic and structural retrofit engineering and specialized architectural consultancy services for evaluating the implementation of flexible workplace arrangements. The report states that those specialized services would be managed and coordinated by the lead architectural and engineering firm (see A/71/333, para. 84). **The Advisory Committee is of the view that, since flexible workplace arrangements have been implemented in the Organization, there would be in-house expertise to provide those services and consultants should not be required. The Committee therefore recommends against those consultancy services** (see para. 34 below).

31. An independent risk-management firm is proposed to support a risk-management framework for the development and use of a risk register and a risk-based approach to the establishment and management of the contingency provision. The firm would report directly to the Office of Central Support Services in order to provide an independent assessment on the course of the various project actions, provide expertise to the project, assist in identifying and mitigating any risks that may affect the successful delivery of the project and support informed decision-making (see A/71/333, paras. 85 and 86).

32. Paragraphs 89 to 93 of the report set out resource requirements for the biennium 2016-2017 for the project. For 2016, in its resolution 70/248 A, the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not to exceed $400,000. The report states that expenditure as at 31 December 2016 is projected to be $396,200. Utilization of the commitment authority will be reported in the context of the first performance report of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.

33. For 2017, the Secretary-General requests the amount of $877,400, comprising $505,600 under section 19, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, and $371,800 under section 33, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance. Under section 19, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, the amount of $505,600, under other staff costs, would provide for project management and support functions, comprising one Project Manager (P-5), one Project Engineer (P-4), one Civil and Structural Engineer (P-3), one Procurement Officer (P-3), one Project Administrative Assistant (Local level) and 50 per cent of the cost of one Project Coordinator (P-4) to be cost-shared with the Africa Hall project at the Economic Commission for Africa. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposed positions for project management and support functions.**

34. Under section 33, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, the amount of $371,800, under consultants, comprises consultancy services ($325,000) for the detailed seismic design, the third-party proof design and an architectural consultant to develop a proposed solution for flexible workplace strategies, escalation ($13,000) and contingencies ($33,800). **In line with its recommendation in paragraph 30 above, the Advisory Committee recommends against the consultants for flexible workplace strategies, with related reductions under escalation and contingencies. The Committee recommends approval of the resources related to the other proposed consultancy services** (see para. 36 (d) below).

35. The report states that, for 2018, a lead architectural and engineering design firm and an independent risk-management firm would be required, while a construction management firm would be required from 2019 onward (see A/71/333, paras. 94 and 95). **Taking into consideration the Advisory Committee's observations and recommendations above in relation to the cost estimates for the project under option C, the Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will provide updated cost estimates for 2018 onward in his next report.**

VII. Conclusion

36. Paragraph 96 of the report sets out the recommendations of the Secretary-General on proposed actions to be taken by the General Assembly. **Subject to its recommendations and observations above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly:**

(a) **Approve option C for the seismic mitigation retrofit and life-cycle replacements project, its proposed scope and the implementation plan, for the period from 2017 to 2023. The Committee recommends that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide updated cost estimates for option C in his next report** (see para. 24 above);

(b) **Approve the establishment of the dedicated project management team and project support staff;**

(c) **Approve the establishment of six temporary positions (1 P-5, 1 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 Local level based in Bangkok; 1 P-4 based at Headquarters) related to the dedicated project management team and project support staff, under section 19, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017. The P-4 position at Headquarters would be 50 per cent cost-shared with the Africa Hall project at the Economic Commission for Africa;**

(d) **Appropriate an amount of $705,800, comprising $505,600 under section 19, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, and $200,200 under section 33, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, of the programme budget for 2016-2017, which would represent a charge against the contingency fund;**

(e) **Approve the establishment of a multi-year construction-in-progress account for the expenditures of the project from 2017 until project completion.**

Annex

Project cost estimates for option C

(Millions of United States dollars)

Cost		*Description*	*Phase year*	*II-III-IV 2017*	*II-III-IV 2018*	*V 2019*	*V 2020*	*V 2021*	*V 2022*	*VI 2023*	*Total*
1. Trade costs						5.057	3.890	7.509	1.828		**18.285**
1.1 Seismic mitigation measures						2.333	1.166	0.700	0.467	–	**4.666**
Urgent	ST-03	Structural deficiencies (seismic work)				2.333	1.166	0.700	0.467		4.666
		Associated cost of reinstallation of affected life-cycle elements				–	–	–	–		–
1.2 Life-cycle replacements						2.724	2.724	6.809	1.362		**13.619**
Urgent	AR-04	Marble cladding				0.645	0.323	0.194	0.129		1.290
Urgent	AR-08	Glazing and window film				1.294	0.647	0.388	0.259		2.588
Urgent	AR-06	Office space conversion				3.053	1.527	0.916	0.611		6.107
Urgent	ST-04	Roof repairs, waterproofing and replacement of insulation				0.045	0.045	0.113	0.023		0.226
Urgent	AR-09	Toilet facility upgrades, water-efficient toilets and grey water				0.049	0.049	0.122	0.024		0.245
Urgent	UT-21	Air-handling unit and air-distribution system				0.126	0.126	0.316	0.063		0.631
Urgent	UT-09	Chilled water piping reinsulation and pipe treatment/replacement				0.070	0.070	0.175	0.035		0.349
Urgent	UT-12	Electrical distribution system and bus duct				0.118	0.118	0.294	0.059		0.588
Urgent	UT-20	Lighting and controls replacement with light-emitting diodes				0.207	0.207	0.518	0.104		1.036
Urgent	UT-13	Information and communications technology network infrastructure upgrades				0.030	0.030	0.074	0.015		0.149
Urgent	UT-22	Building management system upgrade				0.036	0.036	0.090	0.018		0.179
Urgent	UT-05	Elevator shaft pressurization				0.046	0.046	0.115	0.023		0.231
1.3 Swing space costs (off-site and on-site)					2.139	1.098	1.098	1.098	1.098		**6.531**
	1.3.1	Off-site			0.999	1.098	1.098	1.098	1.098		5.391
		1.3.1.1 Rent			0.350	0.701	0.701	0.701	0.701		3.154
		1.3.1.2 Furniture			0.450						0.450
		1.3.1.3 Services			0.199	0.397	0.397	0.397	0.397		1.787

Cost		Description	Phase year	II-III-IV 2017	II-III-IV 2018	V 2019	V 2020	V 2021	V 2022	VI 2023	Total
	1.3.2	On-site			0.950	–	–	–	–		0.950
		1.3.2.1 Construction			0.800						0.800
		1.3.2.2 Furniture			0.150						0.150
	1.3.3	Standardized access control off-site			0.190	–	–	–	–		0.190
Subtotal, 1				**–**	**2.139**	**6.155**	**4.988**	**8.607**	**2.926**		**24.816**
2. Consultancies fees				0.3250	0.628	0.392	0.301	0.582	0.142		**2.370**
	2.1	Seismic design		0.1000	0.100						0.200
	2.2	Third-party proof design		0.0750	0.075						0.150
	2.3	Capital master plan flexible office space design		0.1500	0.150						0.300
	2.4	Risk-management firm			0.051	0.05	0.04	0.08	0.02		0.233
	2.5	Lead architect (5.00 per cent of cost)			0.253	0.25	0.19	0.38	0.09		1.167
	2.6	Construction management (1.75 per cent of cost)				0.09	0.07	0.13	0.03		0.320
Subtotals, 1 and 2				**0.3250**	**2.767**	**6.547**	**5.290**	**9.19**	**3.07**		**27.186**
3. Escalation				0.0130	0.226	0.817	0.899	1.99	0.81		**4.760**
Subtotals, 1-3				**0.3380**	**2.993**	**7.364**	**6.188**	**11.18**	**3.88**		**31.946**
4. Contingencies				0.0338	0.299	0.736	0.619	1.118	0.388		**3.195**
Subtotals, 1-4				**0.3718**	**3.293**	**8.100**	**6.807**	**12.30**	**4.27**		**– 35.141**
5. Project management cost				0.5056	0.696	0.696	0.916	0.916	0.916	0.232	**4.879**
Project Manager (P-5)				0.0870	0.174	0.174	0.174	0.174	0.174	0.174	1.130
Project Administrative Assistant (Local level)				0.0290	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.376
Project Engineer (P-4)				0.1489	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.149		0.893
Civil and Structural Engineer (P-3)				0.1204	0.120	0.120					0.361
Building Mechanical-Electrical-Plumbing Engineer (National Officer)							0.086	0.086	0.086		0.258
Logistics and Coordination Officer (National Officer)							0.086	0.086	0.086		0.258
Safety Project Officer, phase V (Local level)							0.058	0.058	0.058		0.174
Support											–

Cost	*Description*	*Phase year*	*II-III-IV 2017*	*II-III-IV 2018*	*V 2019*	*V 2020*	*V 2021*	*V 2022*	*VI 2023*	*Total*
Project Coordinator (P-4)[a]				0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074		0.372
Procurement Officer (P-3)			0.1204	0.120	0.120					0.361
Security Officer, swing space (2 locations, 2 positions possible) (Local level (off-site))						0.116	0.116	0.116		0.347
Information Technology Assistant, swing space (2 locations, 2 positions possible) (Local level (off-site))						0.116	0.116	0.116		0.347
Total			**0.877**	**3.988**	**8.796**	**7.724**	**13.215**	**5.187**	**0.232**	**40.019**

[a] Project Coordinator (P-4) based at Headquarters, shared with the Economic Commission for Africa at 50 per cent.

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Progress in the construction of new office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa, and update on the renovation of conference facilities, including Africa Hall

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on progress in the construction of the new office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa, and update on the renovation of conference facilities, including Africa Hall (A/71/370). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with the representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 6 October 2016.

2. In his report, pursuant to section IX of General Assembly resolution 70/248 A, the Secretary-General provides an update on the completion of the new office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in Addis Ababa and the related ancillary projects. The Secretary-General also provides an update on the renovation of Africa Hall, including an update on the business case for the visitors' centre, as well as information on the occupancy and renovation of the United Nations Conference Centre at Addis Ababa.

II. Update on the construction of new office facilities and ancillary works

New office facilities

3. The Secretary-General indicates in his report that the construction of the new office facilities was substantially completed on 19 June 2014, and the premises were

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fully occupied and operational by August 2014. This was followed by a one-year defects liability period, during which the contractor was obligated to correct items agreed to be executed after occupancy, as well as any defects detected thereafter (see A/71/370, para. 7).

4. The Advisory Committee recalls that the Secretary-General, in a previous progress report, indicated that a total of 5 per cent of the agreed contract cost would be retained during the defects liability period of one year, during which the contractor could finalize minor outstanding defects (see A/69/359, para. 37, and A/69/415, para. 4). The Committee further recalls that the Secretary-General indicated in a subsequent progress report that the contractor had not fulfilled its contractual obligation to correct the defects, as identified and notified by ECA, within the defects liability period (see A/70/363, para. 11, and A/70/7/Add.21, para. 5). The Secretary-General noted that the contractor cited financial difficulties arising from the decision of ECA to withhold an amount of $468,370 (representing 5 per cent of the agreed contract) as the cause of its inability to correct the defects (see A/71/370, para. 8).

5. The Advisory Committee further recalls that in 2015 ECA commissioned an independent assessment to provide an impartial opinion and verification of the work executed by the contractor and to determine if the contractor had fulfilled the terms and specifications of the contract (see A/70/7/Add.21, para. 5). In his current report, the Secretary-General indicates that the assessment report, which was submitted in January 2016, concluded that there had not been any breach of contract on the part of either the contractor or the consultant design firm and recommended that ECA proceed and complete the contract. The amount of $468,370 would be paid upon completion of the final list of corrective actions, which is now scheduled for the first quarter of 2017 (see A/71/370, paras. 10 and 23). The Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that as at 30 September 2016, corrective measures, valued at $89,500, still remained to be implemented and that the value of the unimplemented corrective measures at the completion date, if any, would be deducted from the final payment. The Committee was also informed, upon enquiry, that the cost of the independent assessment, which amounted to $194,160, had been funded from ECA administrative resources. **The Committee reiterates its recommendation that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that the remaining works are fully completed within the newly defined timeline to avoid any further delay or cost (see A/70/7/Add.21, para. 5).**

Ancillary works

6. The Advisory Committee recalls that the Secretary-General, in his previous progress report, indicated that the major outstanding ancillary project as of June 2014 was the work related to an internal access road and a parking facility, and that, after two failed procurement exercises, ECA had engaged the Addis Ababa Road Authority in May 2015 to ensure the completion of the work in time for the third International Conference on Financing for Development, held on ECA premises in July 2015 (see A/70/363, paras. 14 and 15, and A/70/7/Add.21, para. 7).

7. In its previous report, the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to entrust the Office of Internal Oversight Services with examining whether the Financial Regulations and Rules and

established procurement policies and procedures had been complied with (see A/70/7/Add.21, para. 8). Subsequently, the General Assembly, in section IX, paragraph 18, of its resolution 70/248 A, emphasized the need for the Office of Internal Oversight Services to continue to provide oversight of the construction projects at ECA. In this context, the Office of Internal Oversight Services conducted an audit of the management of construction activities and related processes at ECA. The audit report, which was issued in August 2016, assessed the ECA governance, risk management and control processes as partially satisfactory and made recommendations thereon.[1]

8. With regard to the construction works for the internal access roads and parking facility, the Office of Internal Oversight Services determined, in its audit report, that the Financial Regulations and Rules on procurement should have been applied to the agreement between ECA and the Addis Ababa Road Authority. In addition, the Office determined that ECA should have sought the approval of the Assistant Secretary-General for Central Support Services before entering into an agreement with the Addis Ababa Road Authority. It therefore recommended that ECA seek ex post facto review by the Assistant Secretary-General of the agreement and issue a memo reminding all staff members involved in the procurement process to act within their delegated authority. Both recommendations were accepted.

9. In this connection, both the audit report and the current progress report indicate that the Headquarters Committee on Contracts reviewed the ex post facto case related to the internal access road and the parking facility at its meeting on 13 July 2016 and that the minutes of the meeting were approved by the Assistant Secretary-General on 19 July 2016. In accordance with the Procurement Manual, any significant amendment or modification of a contract previously reviewed by the Headquarters Committee on Contracts requires a recommendation by the Committee and approval by the Assistant Secretary-General. **The Advisory Committee reiterates that the Financial Regulations and Rules and all procurement policies and procedures of the Organization should be strictly adhered to, and that the recurrence of such instances should be prevented (A/70/7/Add.21, para. 8). Furthermore, the Committee considers that accountability measures should be in place and applied.**

III. Update on the Africa Hall renovation project

10. In section IX of its resolution 70/248 A, the General Assembly approved the project scope, schedule and maximum overall cost of $56.9 million for the Africa Hall renovation project, including an appropriation of $13,438,600 under the programme budget for 2016-2017.

Project schedule

11. The Secretary-General, in his previous progress report, indicated that the Africa Hall renovation project was to have five stages: preparation (stage 1), design (stage 2), pre-construction (stage 3), construction (stage 4) and project close-out

[1] See Office of Internal Oversight Services report No. 2016/086 (available from oios.un.org).

(stage 5). The first two stages had been completed and the third one initiated (see A/70/363, para. 33).

12. In his current progress report, the Secretary-General indicates that in December 2015, the Headquarters Committee on Contracts recommended approval of the re-engagement of the lead consultant (who had developed stages 1 and 2) to carry out the design and supervision services needed for stages 3, 4 and 5. Following approval by the Assistant Secretary-General for Central Support Services, ECA, in coordination with the Procurement Division and the Office of Legal Affairs, negotiated the contractual details, and the implementation of stage 3 (pre-construction) started in May 2016. In August 2016, a formal expression of interest was issued for stage 4 (construction); the final selection of eligible bidders for stage 4 is forecast to take place by the end of 2016 (see A/71/370, paras. 43 and 48).

13. The Secretary-General also indicates that contract negotiations for the design and supervision services required for stages 3 to 5 of the project took longer than anticipated. In response to this delay, the Secretary-General is proposing to split the construction phase into two parts: one for early work entailing relocation of existing commercial tenants and demolition work, and the other for the main construction work. The Secretary-General further indicates that these measures would allow for an overlapping of stages 3 and 4 and would shorten the procurement process for the early work, enabling construction (stage 4) to start as planned in late 2017, with no effect on the scheduled project completion in 2021 (ibid., para. 69). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the slippage in the project schedule due to delays in contract negotiations amounted to less than three months. Project completion is now scheduled for the end of 2021 (ibid., figure). **The Committee continues to underline the importance of lessons learned from other construction projects and reiterates that keeping the Africa Hall renovation project on schedule is critical for avoiding any potential cost overruns (see A/69/415, para. 25, and A/70/7/Add.21, para. 27).**

Revised cost plan

14. As a result of the splitting of the construction phase into two parts, the Secretary-General proposes a revised cost plan for 2016-2017 comprising a lower amount of expenditure than initially approved ($6,250,700 compared with $13,438,600) (see A/71/370, table 4). The Secretary-General indicates that, because of the above-mentioned delays in the contractual negotiations with the lead consultant, some construction costs for stage 3 (pre-construction), amounting to $5,109,700, are proposed to be postponed to the 2018-2021 period.

15. The Secretary-General also proposes the following reductions:

(a) A reduction of $1,227, 200 in the contingency provision owing to reduced pre-construction activities in 2017 (see A/71/370, para. 75, and para. 22 below);

(b) A reduction of $713,000 in escalation costs, reflecting a better understanding of the costs for the pre-construction phase, and a reduction of $315,500 in the costs for design and supervision services, as the negotiations with the lead consultant have led to a reduced contract amount (see A/71/370, para. 75, and para. 20 below);

(c) A reduction of $71,600 in staff costs owing to the delay in the recruitment of the management project team (see A/71/370, para. 75).

16. The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolution 69/262, approved the establishment of two temporary positions (1 P-5 and 1 Local level) effective 1 July 2015 and, in its resolution 70/248 A, the establishment of six temporary positions (1 P-4, 3 National Professional Officer and 2 Local level) related to the project management team and one temporary position (P-3) for project support, effective 1 July 2016 (see A/70/7/Add.21, para. 37). The Secretary-General indicated in his previous report that the recruitment processes for the two initially approved positions of Project Manager (P-5) and Administrative Assistant (Local level) had been delayed (see A/70/363, para. 53). In his current report, the Secretary-General indicates that these two positions were filled in March 2016 and that recruitment has been completed for the positions of Procurement Officer (P-3), Supervisor (National Professional Officer), Clerk of Works (National Professional Officer) and Logistics Assistant (Local level). Recruitment is ongoing for the remaining members of the team: a Project Architect/Engineer (P-4), a Supervisor (National Professional Officer) and a Finance Assistant (Local level) (see A/71/370, para. 58). **The Committee expects that the remaining recruitment will be completed without further delay to enable timely support to the project.**

17. The Secretary-General also proposes increases for 2016-2017, including a provision of $60,000 for specialist consultancy services and $90,000 for independent risk management services (ibid., para. 75). The General Assembly, in its resolutions 69/262 and 70/248 A, requested the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to mitigate potential risks and to monitor closely the Africa Hall renovation project in order to avoid any further delay.[2]

18. The Secretary-General indicates in his current report that the risk management firm, which will report directly to the Office for Central Support Services, will be responsible for developing the overall risk management strategy. To that end, the firm will, on a regular basis, provide independent assessment of the intended project actions and facilitate risk management and assurance expertise for the project. The firm will complement the work of the project management team by facilitating the team's risk identification and assessment activities and developing mitigation strategies. In addition, the risk management firm will provide opinions and advice to the Executive Secretary of ECA. The hiring process for the firm is scheduled to be carried out by the Office of Central Support Services between late 2016 and early 2017 (ibid., paras. 63-66). **The Committee expects that the hiring process for the risk management firm will be carried out promptly and trusts that the risk management firm, through its reporting line, will help the Office of Central Support Services to be actively involved in overseeing the proposed project at ECA (see A/70/7/Add.21, paras. 35 and 45).**

Escalation and contingencies

19. Annex III to the report of the Secretary-General contains a table showing the entire project cost plan, by year, through its scheduled completion in 2021, including

[2] In its audit report, the Office of Internal Oversight Services recommended that ECA, in conjunction with the Office for Central Support Services, develop a risk management framework.

a contingency provision amounting to $8,598,400 and escalation costs totalling $5,906,400, reflecting a decrease in pre-construction escalation costs. In the previous report of the Secretary-General, the contingency provision was estimated at $8,736,900 and the escalation costs at $6,086,900 (see A/70/363, table 1).

20. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that, since construction was expected to start in the last quarter of 2017,[3] the forecast period had been shortened and the estimated escalation rates lowered from a fixed rate of 4 per cent to 2.5 per cent until 2018, 3.5 per cent in 2019 and 2020, and 4 per cent in 2021. The Committee was also informed that the actual construction escalation costs in Ethiopia in 2016 were estimated at between 0.5 per cent and 1 per cent.

21. With regard to the contingency provision, the Advisory Committee recalls that it covers unpredictable changes in project costs due to such factors as unforeseen field conditions, changes in owner requirements (but not scope changes) and design errors and oversights. The contingency for the Africa Hall renovation project was estimated at a fixed rate of 20 per cent of the construction costs (see A/70/7/Add.21, para. 50). In its resolution 70/248 A, the General Assembly underlined that the estimation of project contingencies should be based on the identification of risks associated with the different phases of the project and requested that the estimated contingencies be separated from the base project cost. It also recalled that all remaining unused contingency funds should be returned to Member States at the conclusion of the project.

22. The Secretary-General indicates that ECA, with the support of the lead consultant, has started to refine the contingency estimate by breaking it down and linking it to a risk assessment and that a complete quantitative analysis linking the actual contingency funding requirements with the assessed risks will be performed once the independent risk management firm is brought on board in early 2017 (see A/71/370, para. 72). **The Advisory Committee expects that the new methodology to estimate the contingency provision will be implemented rapidly and trusts that information on the updated estimated contingency will be included in the next progress report of the Secretary-General.**

Project governance

23. In his current report, the Secretary-General indicates that, since his previous report, progress has been made regarding project governance, including with regard to:

(a) The finalization of the terms of reference for the Stakeholders Committee, the purpose of which is to assist the Executive Secretary of ECA in his role as the project owner responsible for high-level decision-making and proactively managing the project, as well as providing user input and assurance in the design and delivery of project products (ibid., paras. 52 (a) and 54);

(b) The definition of the draft terms of references for the Advisory Board, the role of which is to support the Executive Secretary and the Stakeholders

[3] Stage 4 (construction) of the project was initially scheduled to start on 1 January 2017 (see A/69/359, figure II). Subsequently, the Secretary-General indicated that the starting date of stage 4 had been rescheduled to the last quarter of 2017 (see A/70/363, figure II).

Committee in ensuring a timely delivery of the expected organizational and project-specific objectives, as well as eliciting and managing the expectations of external stakeholders (ibid., para. 52 (b)). The Board will provide non-binding strategic advice to the Executive Secretary in his role as project owner, including independent and impartial knowledge, understanding and strategic thinking for the project, and will effectively coordinate and respond to interest expressed by Member States (ibid., para. 52 (b)). In its resolution 70/248 A, the General Assembly encouraged the Secretary-General to establish a Board that is independent and impartial with its membership reflecting a wide geographical representation, while ensuring the required expertise. In his current report, the Secretary-General indicates that the Executive Secretary contacted Member States to solicit their interest in the constitution of the Board (ibid., para. 55).

24. **The Advisory Committee encourages the Secretary-General to expedite his efforts to establish the Stakeholders Committee and the Advisory Board rapidly, in order to strengthen the governance for the proposed Africa Hall renovation project.**

Voluntary contributions

25. The Secretary-General indicates that the Government of Mali contributed $52,192 to the Africa Hall renovation project in July 2016 (ibid., para. 50). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that ECA had adopted a three-tiered strategy to solicit voluntary contributions. The first tier was initiated in October 2015 and consists of giving the host country, African Member States and the African Union the first opportunity to show ownership of the project. The second tier, debuted in December 2015, aims at mobilizing the remainder of the United Nations Member States to consider favourably the request of the General Assembly to provide voluntary support. The third tier will target private entities that may wish to be associated with the project through voluntary support. **The Committee notes with appreciation the voluntary contributions of the Government of Mali and the host country (see paras. 31 and 35) and encourages the Secretary-General to seek additional voluntary contributions.**

Staffing

26. The Secretary-General proposes the creation of the temporary position of Project Coordinator (P-4), to be hired from 1 January 2017 until completion of the project, the cost of which is to be shared equally with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) seismic mitigation project. The cost of the temporary position is estimated at $62,500 for each project in 2017 (ibid., para. 75 (f)). This position would be based in the Office of Central Support Services at Headquarters and would support the Chief, Overseas Properties Management Unit. As regards ECA, the incumbent of the position would provide day-to-day oversight, guidance and technical support to the Africa Hall project manager, under the guidance of the Chief of the Unit and would focus on contract management of the independent risk management firm, which would report directly to the Management Unit in order to ensure that the firm carries out an independent and external review, while complementing the work of the dedicated project management team and facilitating the team's risk identification and assessment activities, including the development of mitigation strategies (ibid., para. 60). The

other 50 per cent of the position would be funded from the ESCAP seismic mitigation project, which the incumbent would also support, as explained in the report of the Secretary-General on that project (see A/71/333 and Corr.1, annex III, para. (k)). The Advisory Committee was informed that the services of the Project Coordinator could also be utilized to help to coordinate potential additional future projects.[4] The Committee's observations and recommendations on the Project Coordinator position in respect to the ESCAP seismic project are contained in its related report (see A/71/570, para. 33).

27. In its previous reports, the Advisory Committee considered that the Office of Central Support Services in New York should be actively involved in overseeing the project at ECA to ensure the central supervision of capital projects, including risk management, and alignment with lessons learned (see A/70/7/Add.21, para. 35). **The Committee considers that a Project Coordinator located at Headquarters could play an important role in this matter and therefore recommends approval of the position of Project Coordinator (P-4). The Committee also considers that, in his next report, the Secretary-General should explain the impact on the cost-sharing arrangement in the event that one project is completed before the other.**

28. The Secretary-General also proposes the creation of six Security Officer temporary positions (Local level), from the starting date of the construction work until completion of the project. The cost associated with those positions is estimated at $37,600 in 2017 (see A/71/370, para. 75 (h)). The Secretary-General indicates that construction work, scheduled to commence in late 2017, will require a separation of the construction area from the main campus, which will have to be secured and protected, including controlled access for a large number of workers on a daily basis. The requested Security Officer positions would be needed in order to provide security, protection and controlled access to the construction site (ibid., para. 61).

29. The Advisory Committee recalls that, in his previous report, the Secretary-General had made a request for the establishment of the six positions of Security Officers (Local level). In that report, the Secretary-General also indicated that those positions would be needed to control activities at the construction site for the duration of the construction and that the incumbents would report to the Chief of the Safety and Security Section or his or her designate (see A/70/363 and Corr.1, para. 57 and annex IV). **The Committee recommends approval of the six Security Officer positions (Local level).**

Visitors' centre

30. In compliance with resolution 70/248 A, the Secretary-General presents an updated business case for the visitors' centre (see A/71/370, paras. 28-39). The Advisory Committee appreciates the efforts made to improve clarity in this updated business case. Its main features are the following:

[4] The potential future projects indicated by the Secretary-General are the following: (a) ECA, old office building, estimated cost of $13.7 million; (b) United Nations Office at Nairobi, blocks A-J, estimated cost of $44.1 million; (c) United Nations Office at Nairobi, site infrastructure, estimated cost of $18.8 million; (d) Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, North Building, estimated cost of $7.1 million; and (e) ECA, cafeteria and library, estimated cost of $12.5 million.

(a) The start-up costs are estimated at $50,000 and the annual operating expenses at $60,200. The Advisory Committee noted that this estimate did not include maintenance and utility costs and was informed, upon enquiry, that as the visitors' centre would use existing spaces within the Africa Hall, those costs were already included in the maintenance and utility costs of the entire building;

(b) One public information assistant (Local level) at an annual cost of $27,700, and one tour guide, individual contractor, at an annual cost of $5,000, would be needed to run the guided tours during the first biennium (ibid., table 2);

(c) The updated business case projects the number of visitors at 10,400 per year, which is significantly lower than the number projected in the previous report of the Secretary-General (73,000 visitors per year). The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the projected annual number of visitors comprised 4,000 international visitors and 6,400 national visitors. In its previous report, the Committee had considered that the then initial projections for the number of visitors might have been conservative, and had encouraged ECA to increase the number of visitors, including through promotional and other activities (see A/70/7/Add.21, para. 19). **The Committee is not convinced that the projected number of visitors to the Africa Hall is accurate and trusts that the Secretary-General will refine his calculation** (see also subpara. (d) below);

(d) In terms of promotional activities, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that, over the past year, ECA has intensified its engagement with the Government of Ethiopia, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education and the Tourism Organization, on how to better support the visitors' centre and the Africa Hall renovation project. ECA had also sent a staff member on mission to the visitors' centres in Geneva and Nairobi to learn from them and identify best practices and potential challenges that may be expected during the first few years of operation. **The Committee encourages ECA to renew its efforts to increase the number of visitors through promotional and outreach activities;**

(e) The updated business case now projects that the annual gross revenue generated by visitors' admission fees will amount to $82,560, compared to the estimated $72,000 to $100,000 in the previous iteration of the business case (ibid., para. 20, and A/71/370, table 1).[5] The Secretary-General indicates that additional revenues may be generated by special fees for speakers' sessions and art exhibitions to be held in the visitors' centre, even though the business case does not specify any revenue amount in that regard (see A/71/370, para. 36). **The Advisory Committee encourages the Secretary-General to include detailed information on the different sources of revenue in his next report.**

31. In his current report, the Secretary-General indicates that discussions have been initiated with the host country regarding a possible voluntary contribution for the additional land needed for a visitors' parking lot (ibid., paras. 49 and 67). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that a formal request for the release

[5] The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the figures contained in table 1 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/71/370) regarding the admission fees to the visitors' centre should read as follows: $3 (international private primary and high schools and universities); $2 (senior citizens, public schools and disabled people); and $10 (international tourists and international students).

of the land had been issued in the form of a note verbale in September 2016 and that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia had pledged to engage the Addis Ababa city authorities in that matter.

IV. Occupancy and renovation of the Conference Centre

Occupancy

32. The Secretary-General indicates in his report that the utilization rate of the ECA Conference Centre has increased steadily over the last few years, from 67 per cent in 2012 to 90 per cent during the first six months of 2016. The Secretary-General also indicates that, in response to General Assembly resolution 70/9 (paras. 25 and 26), a closer partnership with the African Union Commission and United Nations agencies based in Addis Ababa, as well as proactive marketing initiatives targeting local and international organizations, have resulted in the above-mentioned gain in the utilization of the Conference Centre (see A/71/370, paras. 77 and 78).

33. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the utilization rate of the Conference Centre at ECA was based on 208 working days per annum, taking into consideration weekends, United Nations official holidays, additional specific holidays observed in Ethiopia and low seasons for conferencing. The Committee was also informed, in the context of its review of the report of the Secretary-General on the pattern of conferences (see A/71/116), that the utilization rate for Geneva, Nairobi and New York were calculated on the basis of 251 annual working days per year. The Committee was further informed that the Secretariat was developing a utilization methodology that would be applicable to all four duty stations.

34. The Advisory Committee recalls its past requests for information on utilization factors based on actual occupancy against existing full capacity for all Secretariat conference facilities (see A/70/432, paras. 4 and 5, and A/69/527, para. 5). **The Committee trusts that the calculation method to be used for the new utilization methodology will be based on the same number of annual working days in each duty station, so as to ensure reliable and comparable statistics for all duty stations.** The Committee's observations and recommendations with respect to the utilization rate of conference centres are contained in its report on pattern of conferences (see A/71/549, para. 5).

Renovation

35. With regard to the Conference Centre roof renovation, the Secretary-General indicates that, following the completion of the design and consulting phase at the end of 2015, a contractor was awarded the contract for the final phase of the project (the remaining 7,562 m^2). The work is scheduled to be completed by 31 December 2016 (see A/71/370, para. 79). The Secretary-General also indicates that, to address the needs of persons with disabilities, the redesign of the podiums is also scheduled to be completed by the end of 2016. The installation work, including carpeting and electrical, audiovisual, information technology and architectural features, is scheduled to be completed in the first quarter of 2017 (ibid., para. 80). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the host country had

contributed in kind to that project, in the form of audio and video systems, for an amount of $408,935. **The Committee trusts that the renovation work will be finished on time.**

V. Conclusion

36. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly are listed under paragraph 83 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/71/370).

37. **Subject to its comments and recommendations above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly:**

(a) **Take note of the progress made since the issuance of the previous progress report;**

(b) **Take note of the governance structure of the project for the renovation of Africa Hall;**

(c) **Take note of the revised cost plan for the Africa Hall renovation project;**

(d) **Take note of the updated business case for the visitors' centre, and invite the Secretary-General to include funding requirements of the visitors' centre under income section 3, Services to the public, in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2020-2021;**

(e) **Approve the establishment of six Security Officer positions (Local level), effective October 2017, under section 34, Safety and security, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017;**

(f) **Approve the proposed establishment of the Project Coordinator (P-4), for which approval has been sought in the context of the seismic mitigation retrofit and life-cycle replacements project at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and the joint funding of that position within the approved maximum overall project costs of the Africa Hall renovation project and the proposed ESCAP seismic mitigation project cost.**

United Nations A/71/572

General Assembly

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Seventy-first session
Agenda item 114 (d)
Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of fourteen members of the Human Rights Council

Note verbale dated 26 October 2016 from the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations presents its compliments to the President of the General Assembly and has the honour to transmit herewith the pledges and commitments of the Government of the United Kingdom with reference to the United Kingdom's candidature for re-election to the Human Rights Council for the period 2017-2019, at the election to be held on 28 October 2016, during the seventy-first session of the General Assembly (see annex).

The Permanent Mission would be grateful if the present note and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 114 (d).

16-18703 (E) 031116

Please recycle

Annex to the note verbale dated 26 October 2016 from the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Candidature of the United Kingdom to the Human Rights Council, 2017-2019

Voluntary pledges and commitments pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/251

The United Kingdom pledges to:

A. Strengthen the role of human rights in the work of the United Nations

Encouraging a fast international response to severe human rights violations and abuses, including in support of conflict prevention

1. We will address human rights situations and crises, either through support and dialogue or greater scrutiny. We will increase our focus on those countries where universal rights are at greatest risk and we will encourage, not penalize, early engagement with the Human Rights Council. We will work to support the successful mainstreaming of human rights across the United Nations system.

Helping states through transition by supporting stability and reform efforts on the ground

2. We will work with states in transition to encourage the systematic implementation of reforms and to provide international support. We will encourage the full use of tools at the disposal of the Human Rights Council, including, for example, visits of the Special Rapporteurs, universal periodic reviews and capacity-building.

Supporting a strong and independent United Nations human rights system

3. We will work to ensure that the Human Rights Council remains at the forefront of the work of the United Nations on human rights. We will support the independence and the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and his Office. We will work in a spirit of openness, consultation and respect for all, on a foundation of cooperation across regional groups. We will encourage dialogue with parliaments and civil society. We will promote the vital role of the independent United Nations human rights treaty body monitoring system in the protection of human rights globally. We will encourage the ratification of United Nations human rights instruments and their successful implementation by governments. We will maintain a standing invitation to and cooperation with the Special Rapporteurs who wish to visit and will encourage other countries to do the same. We remain committed to the success of the universal periodic review process and pledge to assist others by sharing our experiences and offering advice and support.

B. Translate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into action that leaves no one behind

Helping women and girls to achieve a voice, choice and control in development (Sustainable Development Goal 5)

4. We will help to remove the barriers stopping women in the world's poorest countries from getting jobs. This includes tackling discriminatory laws, all forms of violence in the public and private spheres and poor infrastructure. We will support work in education by helping 6.5 million more girls to go to school over the next five years and support efforts, led by affected communities, to end female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage within a generation.

Tackling the scourge of modern slavery across borders (target 8.7)

5. We are implementing the Modern Slavery Act 2015, which ensures that major businesses operating in the United Kingdom must report on how they tackle modern slavery in their global supply chains. We support anti-trafficking projects globally, including working in partnership with the International Labour Organization on the "Work in freedom" programme. In addition, the Government of the United Kingdom and the United Kingdom Independent Anti-slavery Commissioner work with Governments, national and international law enforcement agencies, civil society and other stakeholders to end modern slavery.

Supporting work on justice, the rule of law and open societies (Sustainable Development Goal 16)

6. We will continue to support peace and security across the globe, including through the work of the Human Rights Council. We are working to improve access to security and justice services for 10 million women and girls. We will support efforts to improve governance and tackle corruption and bribery through the work of the Open Government Partnership, the United Nations and a global anti-corruption summit, to be led by the former Prime Minister, David Cameron, in London.

C. Stand up for freedom of religion or belief

Defending the freedom of people of all religions and beliefs to live without discrimination and violence

7. We will continue to challenge discriminatory legislation and practices. We will encourage full use of the Human Rights Council's universal periodic review process, special procedures and treaty body mechanisms to raise cases in which the freedom of religion or belief is violated. We will play an active role in the International Contact Group on Freedom of Religion or Belief and support the International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief.

Supporting persecuted minorities in the Middle East

8. We will continue to work with civil society to develop strategies to assist Christians and people belonging to other minorities. We will work with regional

allies to address the climate of impunity and legal discrimination that persists against minorities in the region.

Advocating in favour of equality and non-discrimination, including on the grounds that freedom of religion or belief can help to counter violent extremism

9. We will promote a whole-of-society approach to extremism, including by working with religious leaders, teachers and civil society groups to encourage them to play an active role in tackling extremism in their communities.

D. Work to end violence against women and girls to promote women's full participation and leadership in political and economic life

Tackling violence against women and girls, including sexual violence in conflict, all forms of domestic violence and harmful practices, including during humanitarian crises

10. We will drive forward the preventing sexual violence in conflict initiative and champion the road map to take forward the Call to Action to Protect Women and Girls in Emergencies. We will promote widespread implementation of the international protocol on the documentation and investigation of sexual violence in conflict and encourage greater support, assistance and reparation for survivors of all forms of violence against women and girls. We will advocate the full integration of responses to sexual and gender-based violence and the promotion of gender equality and women's participation into all peace and security efforts. We will work with other governments to improve international strategic coordination.

Promoting women's economic empowerment and the representation of women in political and public life, especially in leadership positions

11. We will continue to support women's equal participation in public and political life and we will provide political and technical support to help women attain their rights and achieve their potential while they rise to become national and global leaders.

Challenging discriminatory laws and practices

12. We will work with governments to change discriminatory legislation and practices, sharing our expertise and best practice. We will support the application of relevant international human rights norms at the national level, making full use of the universal periodic review process to translate action at the Human Rights Council to the local level.

E. Work to promote open societies and challenge threats to civil society

Promoting societies that are inclusive and just

13. We will encourage all governments to create a safe and enabling environment for civil society, which promotes free media and protects journalists from harm. We

will promote the economic, scientific and cultural benefits of open societies and encourage businesses to realize the value of civil society and advocate on its behalf.

14. We will work with individuals and organizations that are developing and expanding their civil society and help them to engage with international organizations and bodies, including the Human Rights Council.

15. We will harness the universal periodic review process to strengthen safeguards for civil society in the states under review.

United Nations A/71/573–S/2016/909

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda item 31
Prevention of armed conflict

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Letter dated 26 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the illegal visit of the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, on 26 October 2016 to the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Ukraine (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

16-18879 (E) 011116

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 26 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the illegal visit of the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, to the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Ukraine

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine expresses its strong protest against yet another visit, not coordinated with Ukraine, of the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, which started on 26 October 2016, to the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Ukraine.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine has repeatedly emphasized the inadmissibility of visits, not coordinated with Ukraine, of Russian officials to the sovereign territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, which include the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

Ukraine considers this and other similar so-called "visits" as further attempts to legitimize the illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol that have already resulted in economic, social and humanitarian problems on the peninsula, as well the blatant neglect by the Russian Federation of the Charter of the United Nations, General Assembly resolution 68/262 on the territorial integrity of Ukraine, the Baku Declaration, Parliamentary Assembly resolutions of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, obligations under the Treaty between the Russian Federation and Ukraine on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership of 1997 and other norms of international law.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine states that, according to the norms of international law, the Russian Federation, as the occupying State, its officials and illegal "Crimean authorities" and their representatives who commit illegal acts and make illegal decisions bear full responsibility for these violations.

United Nations A/71/574–S/2016/908

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General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda item 68 (c)
Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Letter dated 26 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the decision of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation concerning the illegally imprisoned citizens of Ukraine, Mykola Karpyuk and Stanislav Klykh (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 68 (c), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

16-18880 (E) 031116

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 26 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the decision of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation concerning the illegally imprisoned citizens of Ukraine, Mykola Karpyuk and Stanislav Klykh

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine strongly condemns the decision of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation on 26 October 2016 to uphold the sentences of the citizens of Ukraine, Mykola Karpyuk and Stanislav Klykh, who have been imprisoned by the Russian authorities to 22.5 and 20 years, respectively, in a colony on fabricated accusations of establishing armed groupings and of the felonious homicide of Russian servicemen during combat operations in the Chechen Republic in 1994 and 1995.

The politically motivated criminal cases concerning Mr. Karpyuk and Mr. Klykh, as well the Supreme Court's defiance of the facts presented by the defending party, which proves falsification of the case and numerous and severe irregularities in the judicial proceedings, provide yet more evidence of the absence in the Russian Federation of true and fair justice. The defiance of Ukraine's and the defending party's legal and justified demands on conducting an independent psychiatric examination of the health of Mr. Klykh is especially cynical and has been causing concern for a long time.

We demand that the State aggressor immediately release Mr. Karpyuk and Mr. Klykh, whose sentences have been politically motivated, and other citizens of Ukraine who are illegally detained in the Russian Federation under fabricated accusations.

We call upon the international community and human rights institutions to take all possible legal, political and economic actions in order to release and bring back to Ukraine its citizens, who have become political prisoners of the Kremlin, resulting from Russia's military aggression and illegal occupation of the sovereign territory of Ukraine.

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Seventy-first session
Agenda item 68 (c)
Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Letter dated 24 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach herewith the statement of the Parliament of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, on the illegal deprivation of freedom of Ukrainian journalists Roman Sushchenko and Mykola Semena (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 68 (c), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

16-18883 (E) 031116

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Annex to the letter dated 24 October 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on the illegal deprivation of freedom of Ukrainian journalists Roman Sushchenko and Mykola Semena

5 October 2016

On 30 September 2016, under uncertain circumstances, the Russian security service (FSB) detained, in Moscow, a Ukrainian journalist who is a Ukrainian National Information Agency (UKRINFORM) special correspondent in France, Roman Sushchenko, who had arrived in the territory of the Russian Federation for a private visit with his close relatives. The Russian authorities have groundlessly accused him of espionage.

A closed court session was held on 1 October 2016, which resulted in a court decision to arrest the Ukrainian journalist for two months. Ukraine was only notified about the detention of the Ukrainian citizen on 2 October 2016.

Up until the end of day on 3 October 2016, the Russian authorities have not permitted the Ukrainian consular officials to visit their arrested compatriot, which is a grave violation of article 13 of the consular convention between Ukraine and the Russian Federation. Also, a lawyer hasn't been allowed to visit Mr. Sushchenko — another direct violation of his rights as well as the international legal obligations of the Russian Federation.

Taking into account a striking similarity between the detention of Mr. Sushchenko and the detention by the Russian security services of other Ukrainian citizens, who are recognized by the international community as political prisoners of the Kremlin, and the completely farfetched nature of this case, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine expresses its deep concern about the illegal detention and further fate of the Ukrainian journalist.

We have to highlight that Mr. Sushchenko is not the only Ukrainian journalist who faces a fabricated case. In particular, there is another citizen of Ukraine, Mykola Semena, a journalist who also faces false accusations in a fabricated case and who is under a court trial today in the temporarily occupied Crimea. Despite the protests of the Ukrainian authorities and journalist organizations, Mr. Semena is not allowed to leave the occupied Crimea for medical treatment.

Performing his professional duties and defending his civil position, this journalist wrote an article entitled "The blockade is the first step to the liberation of Crimea", posted on the information website "Crimea. Realities" — a Radio Svoboda project — while he was in the mainland of Ukraine in September 2015.

On 19 April 2016, the Russian security service (FSB) searched Mr. Semena's residence in the temporarily occupied Crimea and later initiated a criminal investigation accusing him of separatism for his publications as a journalist.

Despite Mr. Semena's health condition, he was denied entry to the mainland of Ukraine for medical treatment, which can clearly be considered as torture. In October 2016, criminal proceedings against him will continue based on the trumped-up charges.

These and other cases against citizens of Ukraine, who are illegally held in Russia and in the territory of Ukraine which is under the Russian occupation, are a clear demonstration of continuing human rights violations by the Russian Federation on a massive scale, using the methods of forcible seizure in its territory or abduction of hostages from the territory of Ukraine with subsequent initiation of preposterous accusations against them. The Russian Federation actively applies psychological pressure and physical torture to the detained Ukrainians.

We firmly believe that the mentioned cases of persecution of Ukrainian citizens are directly linked to their journalistic activities.

Through such actions the representatives of the Russian Federation are trying to intimidate journalists, attempting to take hostage those for whom the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular freedom of speech and expression, is essential and lies within the core of their work. This wrongful goal must not be achieved and such actions deserve condemnation.

We urgently call on you to consolidate efforts to release the Ukrainian journalists held by the Russian Federation, which gravely violates human rights, and to facilitate the immediate access of consular officials of Ukraine and a lawyer to the detained journalist, Roman Sushchenko. It is only through the joint actions of Ukraine and the international community that we can stop the gross violations of human rights, which, unfortunately, have now become a regular practice in the Russian Federation.

United Nations A/71/576

General Assembly

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Agenda item 134
Programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

First performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

Revised estimates required as a result of variations in costing parameters since the time of the initial appropriation, unforeseen and extraordinary items and additional mandates and decisions that are best dealt with in the context of the performance report are identified in the present report, under the arrangements endorsed by the General Assembly at its thirty-second session.

The revised estimates under the expenditure sections of the budget amount to $5,460.7 million, representing an increase of $51.9 million compared with the appropriation level approved by the General Assembly in its resolutions 70/248 B, 70/248 C and 70/249 A-C. The revised estimates under the income sections amount to $533.1 million, representing an increase of $1.2 million.

16-20815 (E) 051216

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I. Introduction

1. The primary purpose of the first performance report, which is submitted in the first year of each biennium, is to identify revised estimates required because of variations in the rates of inflation and exchange and in standards since the calculation of the initial appropriations. This is in conformity with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/32/8 and Corr.1, para. 14), which was endorsed by the General Assembly at its thirty-second session (resolution 32/211).

2. The performance report also takes into account additional mandates approved by the General Assembly and the Security Council since the approval of the budget appropriation, unforeseen and extraordinary items that could not be deferred to the following biennium and decisions of policymaking organs that are best dealt with in the context of the performance report.

3. The increases in revised estimates for expenditure sections and income sections are summarized in tables 1.A and 1.B.

Table 1

A. Summary of revised estimates for expenditure sections

(Thousands of United States dollars)

			Increase	
	Appropriation[a]	*Revised estimate*	*Amount*	*Percentage*
Expenditure	5 408 719.5	5 460 675.2	51 955.7	1.0

[a] See resolutions 70/248 B, 70/248 C and 70/249 A-C.

B. Summary of revised estimates for income sections

(Thousands of United States dollars)

			Increase	
	Income estimates	*Revised estimate*	*Amount*	*Percentage*
Income[a]	531 885.7	533 073.0	1 187.3	0.2

[a] Income estimates are used to offset Member State assessments.

4. An explanation of the variations in the costing parameters assumed in the calculation of the initial appropriation is provided in section II, parts C to F, below. Schedules 1 to 4 and annexes I to III provide the costing parameters used in the initial appropriation, the proposed revisions for the biennium 2016-2017 and their effect on budget sections and duty stations, as follows:

- Schedule 1: the rates of exchange and inflation used in the initial appropriation for the biennium 2016-2017 and the rates proposed in the present report
- Schedule 2: the post adjustment multipliers used in the initial appropriation and the actual post adjustment multipliers for 2016 promulgated by the

International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) and the revised projected rates for 2017

- Schedule 3: the actual United Nations operational rates of exchange against the United States dollar in effect at the various duty stations for the first 10 months of 2016
- Schedule 4: the cost-of-living adjustments for staff in the General Service and related categories assumed in the initial appropriation for the biennium 2016-2017, the adjustments actually effected in 2016 and the revised assumptions for 2017
- Annex I: revised estimates:

  A: By budget section and main determining factor

  B: By duty station and main determining factor
- Annex II: revised estimates for jointly financed activities and inter-organizational security measures by main determining factor
- Annex III: expenditures incurred under the regular budget for the biennium 2016-2017 as at 30 September 2016

II. Expenditure sections

5. The revised estimates resulting from the factors mentioned below would increase by $51.9 million, for a total of $5,460.7 million for the biennium. The details are summarized in table 2.

Table 2
Projected changes in budget estimates for expenditure sections for the biennium 2016-2017

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category	Amount	Factor
Initial appropriation	5 401 794.4	Resolution 70/249 A-C
Additional appropriation[a]	6 925.1	Resolutions 70/248 B and 70/248 C
Programme budget appropriation	5 408 719.5	
(a) Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses	8 152.2	Commitments approved by the Advisory Committee, certified by the Secretary-General in respect of peace and security and inter-organizational security measures, and by the President of the International Court of Justice in accordance with resolution 70/250
(b) Decisions of policymaking organs		
Subvention to the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone	1 444.4	Resolution 70/248 (see sect. VII)
Subvention to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia	10 926.8	Resolution 70/248 (see sect. IV)

Category	Amount	Factor
Revised estimates resulting from the decisions contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"	–	Resolution 70/248 (see sect. XI). To be sought in the context of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial implications resulting from supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda
Seismic mitigation retrofit and life-cycle replacements project at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) premises in Bangkok	379.5	Resolution 70/248 (see sect. XII)
(c) Variations in budgetary assumptions		
Exchange rates	59 630.1	United Nations operational rates of exchange
Outcome of forward purchases	(11 955.9)	United Nations operational rates of exchange
Inflation rates	(12 850.1)	Consumer price indices, post-adjustment multipliers promulgated by ICSC and actual cost-of-living adjustments
Standard costs	30 322.6	Actual payroll data, common staff costs and staff assessment
Vacancy rates	(34 093.9)	Updated average vacancy rates
Revised total	**5 460 675.2**	

[a] Includes the amounts approved by the General Assembly during the resumed seventieth session relating to: (a) revised estimates of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 under sections 27, Humanitarian assistance, and 36, Staff assessment: United Nations Monitoring Mechanism; and (b) revised estimates relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 on the future of United Nations peace operations: implementation of the recommendations of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations under sections 3, Political affairs, 29D, Office of Central Support Services, and 36, Staff assessment.

6. The Secretary-General has issued and, where applicable, will issue revised estimates and statements of programme budget implications in response to draft resolutions considered by the Main Committees at the current session of the General Assembly. These amounts are being handled outside of the context of the first performance report but will be revised, where applicable, to reflect the costing parameters approved by the Assembly in its consideration of the present report and, subject to the decisions of the Assembly, will affect the level of the revised appropriation. At the time of reporting, the amounts proposed in those reports amounted to approximately $145.2 million and related to revised estimates under various sections, as follows:

(a) Administration of justice at the United Nations (A/71/163, A/71/436) ($2.7 million);

(b) Proposal for the seismic mitigation retrofit and life-cycle replacements project at the ESCAP premises in Bangkok (A/71/333 and Corr.1, A/71/570) ($0.9 million);

(c) Eighth progress report on the enterprise resource planning project (A/71/390) ($4.0 million);

(d) Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council during its 2016 session (A/71/401 and Add.1) ($3.5 million);

(e) Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its thirty-first, thirty-second and thirty-third sessions and twenty-fourth special session (A/71/623) ($15.1 million);

(f) Revised estimates resulting from the decisions contained in General Assembly resolution 70/290, entitled "High-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants" (A/71/345, A/71/597) ($0.3 million);

(g) Request for a subvention to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (A/71/338, A/71/550) ($16.2 million);

(h) Request for a subvention to the Special Court of Sierra Leone (A/71/386, A/71/613) ($3.0 million);

(i) Revised estimates relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 under section 7, International Court of Justice (A/71/560) ($0.1 million);

(j) Estimates in respect of special political missions for 2017 (A/71/365 and Add.1-6) ($60.6 million) (excludes the United Nations Mission in Colombia);

(k) Report of the Secretary-General on the global service delivery model for the United Nations Secretariat (A/71/417) ($0.3 million);

(l) Restructuring of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/71/218 and Corr.1, A/71/584) (reduction of $0.3 million);

(m) Proposed United Nations Secretariat contribution to the United Nations Development Group cost-sharing arrangement for the resident coordinator system (A/70/703) ($13.3 million);

(n) Supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (A/71/534) ($24.5 million);

(o) Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/71/L.65/Rev.1 on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices (A/C.5/71/13) ($0.3 million);

(p) Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/71/L.41 on taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations (A/C.5/71/12) ($0.7 million).

7. Furthermore, it is anticipated that a number of draft resolutions yet to be submitted to the General Assembly would give rise to statements of programme budget implications.

A. Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses (increase: $8,152,200)

8. Under the terms of General Assembly resolution 70/250, on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 2016-2017, the Secretary-General is authorized, with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, to enter into commitments to meet unforeseen and extraordinary expenses, except that the concurrence of the Advisory Committee shall not be necessary for such commitments not exceeding a total of $8 million in any one year that the Secretary-General certifies as relating to the maintenance of peace and security; such commitments as the President of the International Court of Justice certifies as relating to expenses occasioned by a number of situations in the Court as prescribed in paragraph 1 (b) of the resolution; and such commitments not exceeding a total of $1 million that the Secretary-General certifies as required for security measures as prescribed in paragraph 1 (c).

9. As reflected in table 3.A-C, such commitments have been entered into in the amount of $8.15 million, as follows:

(a) Commitments approved by the Advisory Committee relating to: (i) the human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, (ii) preventing the deterioration of the human rights situation in Burundi, (iii) the situation of human rights in South Sudan, and (iv) the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea ($5.5 million), which are reflected in table 3.A;

(b) Commitments certified by the Secretary-General as relating to the maintenance of peace and security and for security measures ($2.6 million) as reflected in table 3.B;

(c) Commitments certified by the President of the International Court of Justice as relating to unforeseen expenses in respect of the Court ($0.05 million) as reflected in table 3.C.

10. Those expenses relate to budget sections 2, 3, 7, 24, 29F and 34, as set out below.

Table 3
Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses

A. Commitments approved by the Advisory Committee ($5,482,500)[a]

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Section 2. General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	
Preventing the deterioration of the human rights situation in Burundi	155.2
Situation of human rights in South Sudan	72.4
The human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic	349.0
Section 24. Human rights	
Preventing the deterioration of the human rights situation in Burundi	636.1
Situation of human rights in South Sudan	431.3
The human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic	3 550.2
Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	276.1

Section 29F. Administration, Geneva	
Situation of human rights in South Sudan	12.2
Subtotal[a]	**5 482.5**

[a] The amounts take into account actual expenditure experience and are therefore lower than the total amount approved by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

[b] The amount does not reflect commitments approved by the Advisory Committee in respect of the United Nations Mission in Colombia ($8.5 million) and additional requirements in support of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria ($4.7 million), the United Nations Support Mission in Libya ($5.0 million) and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen ($1.2 million), which are sought in the context of the overall requirements for special political missions for appropriation under the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council.

B. Commitments approved by the Secretary-General ($2,619,700)[a]

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Section 3. Political affairs	
Delegate of the Secretary-General to the Colombian peace process	481.3
Peacebuilding architecture review	170.9
Senior adviser for Asia and the Pacific	93.0
Study on youth, peace and security	409.6
Syrian Arab Republic board of inquiry	739.3
Section 34. Safety and security	
Security for the High Commissioner for Human Rights	725.6
Subtotal[b]	**2 619.7**

[a] The amounts take into account actual expenditure experience and are therefore lower than the total amount approved by the Secretary-General.

[b] The amount does not reflect commitments approved by the Secretary-General in respect of the start-up of the United Nations Mission in Colombia, which are sought in the context of the overall requirements for special political missions for appropriation under the Secretary-General's report on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the Secretary-General and/or the Security Council.

C. Commitments approved by the President of the International Court of Justice ($50,000)

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Section 7. International Court of Justice	
Appointment of experts in compliance with Article 50 of the Court's Statute	50.0
Subtotal	**50.0**

B. Decisions of policymaking organs

1. Seismic mitigation retrofit and life-cycle replacements project at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific premises in Bangkok

Section 33. Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance ($379,500)

11. The General Assembly, in section XII of its resolution 70/248, authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not to exceed $400,000 under section 33, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 to cover the expenses to update the project proposal and costing estimates for multiphase and single-phase implementation methods, including an option to address the seismic risk on its own and an option in combination with renovation, life-cycle replacement or other works, ensuring the most cost-effective and efficient method of implementation. In the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report thereon in the context of the first performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.

12. The projected expenditure through the end of December 2016 is estimated at $379,500. Accordingly, the present report seeks an appropriation in the amount of $379,500 under section 33 of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.

2. Subvention to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia

Section 8. Legal affairs ($10,926,800)

13. In section IV of its resolution 70/248, the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not to exceed $12.1 million to supplement the voluntary financial resources of the internal component of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2016, and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at the main part of its seventy-first session a report on the use of the commitment authority as well as information on a comprehensive examination of the future financing of the Extraordinary Chambers for 2017 and beyond.

14. In line with the General Assembly's request, the Secretary-General submitted a report on the request for a subvention to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (A/71/338), wherein he provided details on the judicial progress achieved by the Extraordinary Chambers since his previous report, a projection regarding the anticipated use of the approved commitment authority for 2016, and information on the revised budget of the Extraordinary Chambers for 2017, and sought the Assembly's approval of an appropriation for a subvention for the international component of the Extraordinary Chambers in the amount of $16.2 million for 2017. The utilization of the commitment authority for 2016 was detailed in paragraphs 33 and 34 of the Secretary-General's report. On that basis, the present report seeks an appropriation in the amount of $10,926,800 of the 2016 commitment authority under section 8, Legal affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.

3. Subvention to the Residual Special Court of Sierra Leone

Section 8. Legal affairs ($1,444,400)

15. In section VII of its resolution 70/248, the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not to exceed $2.4 million to supplement the voluntary financial resources of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2016 as a bridging financing mechanism, and requested him to report during the main part of the seventy-first session of the Assembly on the use of the commitment authority.

16. In line with the General Assembly's request, the Secretary-General submitted a report on the use of the commitment authority and request for a subvention to the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone (A/71/386 and Corr.1), wherein he addressed the use of the commitment authority and options for future financing arrangements for the Court and requested a subvention for 2017 to enable the Court to continue to carry out its mandate in 2017. The utilization of the commitment authority for 2016 was detailed in paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's report, wherein it was stated that the Court expected that an amount of $1.4 million of the commitment authority would be utilized during the period from 1 January to 31 December 2016. On that basis, the present report seeks an appropriation in the amount of $1,444,400 under section 8, Legal affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.

4. Revised estimates resulting from the decisions contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"

17. The General Assembly, in section XI of its resolution 70/248 A, authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not exceeding $7.5 million in the first year of the biennium 2016-2017 for the implementation of the decisions contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In section I of its resolution 70/248 C, the Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/70/883), including a request for the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly a comprehensive proposal that addresses the effective and efficient delivery of mandates in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

18. In line with the Assembly's request, the Secretary-General submitted a report on supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (A/71/534), in paragraphs 173 and 174 of which he sought an appropriation of $6.1 million related to the commitment authority approved by the General Assembly in resolution 70/248 A.

C. Changes in exchange rates (net increase of $47,674,200, comprised of $59,630,100 relating to the difference in rates approved in the initial appropriation and the updated rates presented in the report, offset in part by an amount of $11,955,900 relating to gains from forward purchasing of Swiss francs and euros)

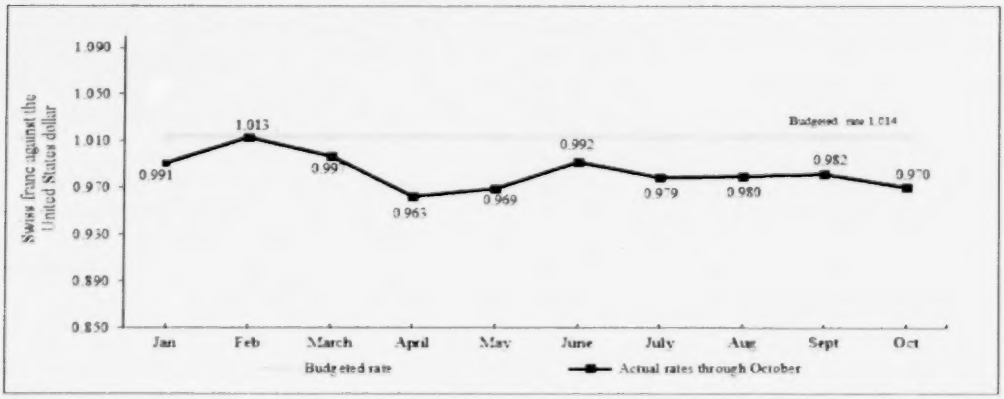
19. In line with section IX of General Assembly resolution 69/274 A, the budgeted exchange rates approved in the initial appropriation were based on forward exchange rates for which an active forward rate exists. For the Ethiopian birr, the Lebanese pound and the Trinidad and Tobago dollar, the latest operational rate of exchange was used, as no active market with forward rates exists.

20. In the present performance report, the exchange rate realized from January to October 2016 has been applied to 2016, with the approved 2016 forward rate for the Swiss franc and the euro applied to November and December 2016. For 2017, the revised forward rate for the Swiss franc and the euro (contracted in October 2016) has been applied. In respect of the other duty stations for which an active forward rate exists, the revised forward rate has been applied for November and December 2016 and 2017, with the exception of the Ethiopian birr, the Lebanese pound and the Trinidad and Tobago dollar, for which the spot rate for October was applied to November and December 2016 and 2017.

21. The net increase of $59.6 million reflects the general depreciation of the United States dollar in a number of operational rates experienced during the year to date compared with the budgeted rates in the initial appropriation.

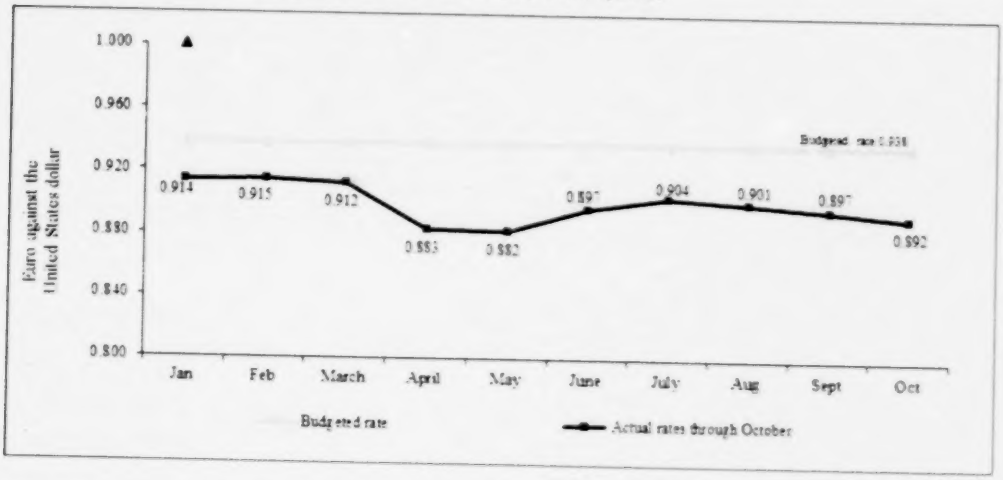
22. The average rate experienced for 2016 based on January to October actual rates in respect of the Swiss franc was SwF 0.989 to the dollar, compared with the assumption of SwF 1.014 used in the initial appropriation. For 2017, the revised forward rate (contracted in October 2016) of SwF 0.960 has been used in the performance report. This change has resulted in an increase of $41.6 million. Figure I reflects the experience of the Swiss franc against the dollar from January to October 2016.

Figure I
Performance of the Swiss franc against the United States dollar, 2016



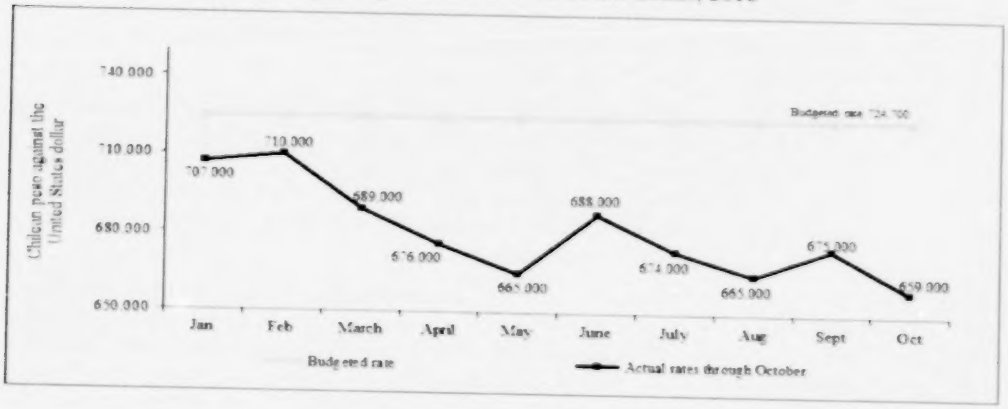
23. With respect to the euro, the realized 2016 average is €0.906 to the dollar, compared with the assumption of €0.938 used in the initial appropriation. For 2017, the revised forward rate (contracted in October 2016) of €0.881 has been used in the present report, which has resulted in an increase of $11.4 million. Figure II reflects the experience of the euro during the period from January to October 2016.

Figure II
Performance of the euro against the United States dollar, 2016



24. With respect to the Chilean peso, the realized 2016 average is Ch$680.459 to the dollar, compared with the assumption of Ch$724.700 used in the initial appropriation. For 2017, the revised forward rate of Ch$678.753 has been used in the present report, which has resulted in an increase of $5.2 million. Figure III reflects the experience of the Chilean peso during the period from January to October 2016.

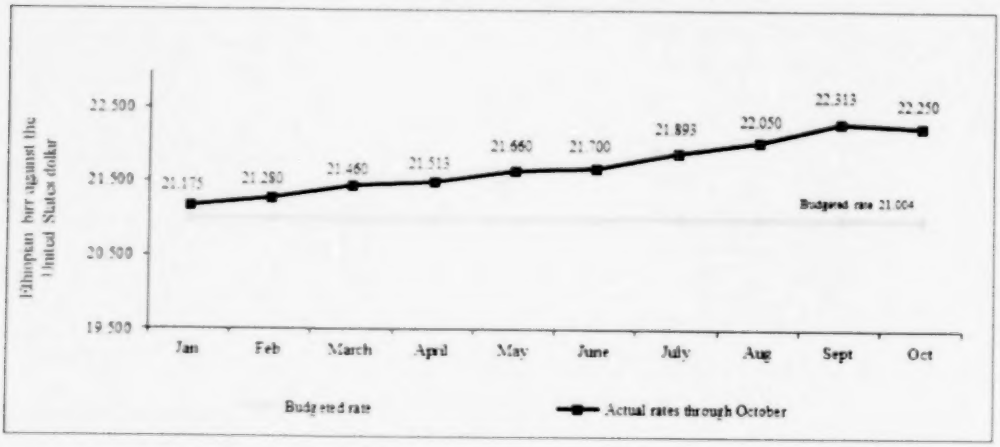
Figure III
Performance of the Chilean peso against the United States dollar, 2016



25. With respect to the Ethiopian birr, the realized 2016 average is Br 21.816 to the dollar, compared with the assumption of Br 21.004 used in the initial appropriation. For 2017, the October rate of Br 22.250 has been used in the present report, which has resulted in a reduction of $5.3 million. Figure IV reflects the experience of the Ethiopian birr during the period from January to October 2016.

Figure IV

Performance of the Ethiopian birr against the United States dollar, 2016



26. Details regarding operational rates at all duty stations are included in schedules 1 and 3. The schedules provide the actual operational rates through October 2016, the rate used in the initial appropriation and the rate used in the present report.

D. Experience of forward purchasing for the current biennium

27. The General Assembly, by its resolution 67/246, authorized the Secretary-General to utilize forward purchasing to protect the United Nations against exchange rate fluctuations, taking into account the findings presented in the second performance report of the Secretary-General on the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 (A/66/578 and Corr.1) and keeping the transaction costs as low as possible.

28. The forward purchasing of foreign currency is a financial instrument that provides additional certainty to entities which enter into this type of contract, as it predefines the price of foreign currency to be purchased in the future. Those financial instruments entail minimal costs, as the price is based on the spot rate of exchange applicable at the time of the agreement and subsequently adjusted on the basis of the applicable interest rates.

29. Under the forward contract for 2016, the United Nations purchased 300 million Swiss francs and 48 million euros at a predefined rate of exchange which, with the weakening of the United States dollar against the Swiss franc and the euro in 2016 (see figures I and II above), resulted in a net positive difference between the contracted forward rates and the United Nations operational rates of

exchange, which would have been used in the absence of the forward contract. That practice resulted in a favourable difference in the amount of $11.9 million ($9.8 million for the Swiss franc and $2.1 million for the euro) for the period from January to October 2016, thereby reducing the requirements relating to variations in exchange rates from $59.6 million to $47.7 million.

30. For 2017, the United Nations entered into a forward contract in October 2016 to purchase the same amounts of Swiss francs and euros at the predefined rates of SwF 0.960 and €0.881 beginning in January 2017 and every month thereafter through December 2017. The outcome of the 2017 experience between the contracted exchange rates and the actual United Nations operational rates, including for November and December 2016, will be reported in context of the second performance report.

31. As reflected in the Secretary-General's second performance report for the biennium 2014-2015 (A/70/557), in the three-year period during which the United Nations entered into forward contracts (2013, 2014 and 2015), the tool provided more certainty, as the price to be paid in future purchasing of currency was known in advance. The practice resulted in a net positive difference of $4.6 million in 2013, $7.1 million in the biennium 2014-2015 and $11.9 million for the period from January to October 2016, thereby reducing the budgetary requirements for the respective budgetary periods.

32. In the long term, it is expected that the positive and negative differences that arise when an entity enters into forward contracts will offset each other and, accordingly, the amounts paid for foreign currency, whether the entity uses forward contracts or the spot rate, will be similar. The biggest difference between using a pre-agreed exchange rate under a forward contract and using the applicable market rate is that, despite any positive or negative fluctuations in exchange rates, the United Nations, after entering into a forward contract, will know with certainty the amount to be paid in the future for the agreed-upon quantities of currency reflected in the contract. On the other hand, should the United Nations buy foreign currency using its operational rate of exchange, it will be subject to market fluctuations, which will result in positive or negative differences between the prevailing rate of exchange at the time of purchasing the foreign currency and the budgeted rate.

E. Inflation rates (decrease: $12,850,100)

33. Schedules 1, 2 and 4 reflect revised inflation rates that affect post and non-post objects of expenditure. These are based on actual and projected post adjustment multipliers that have been promulgated by ICSC for the Professional and higher categories, actual versus budgeted cost-of-living adjustments based on prevailing market conditions for the General Service and related categories, and the latest available information on consumer price indices as derived from *The Economist*, including for non-post objects of expenditure.

34. The revised post adjustment multipliers used in the present report take into account actual multipliers promulgated by ICSC based on updated parameters for exchange rates and inflation, and updated cost-of-living information received subsequent to the approval of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 in December 2015. Accordingly, the decrease of $1.8 million for inflation related to

multiplier changes largely reflects downward adjustments of $0.7 million for New York, and $1.1 million for Nairobi. Post adjustment multipliers applicable to the Professional and higher categories for all duty stations are set out in schedule 2.

35. With regard to the General Service and related categories, the net decrease of $3.7 million reflects actual cost-of-living adjustments experienced in 2016 and projections for 2017 based on the latest available information. In line with the recommendations of ICSC, no inflation provision was made for the General Service and related categories in New York for the biennium 2016-2017. In respect of Geneva, no inflation provision was made for the General Service and related categories effective 1 January 2017, which amounted to a reduction of $0.6 million.

36. The decrease of $3.7 million largely reflects downward adjustments of $1.7 million for Addis Ababa, $0.9 million for Bangkok, $0.6 million for Geneva and $0.4 million for Beirut. The cost-of-living adjustments for staff in the General Service and related categories at all duty stations are set out in schedule 4.

37. With regard to non-post objects of expenditure, the decrease of $6.6 million largely reflects decreases of $2.1 million for New York, $1.0 million for Geneva, $1.6 million for Vienna and $0.7 million for Addis Ababa. The inflation rates proposed in the present report are set out in schedule 1.

38. The total net decrease arising as a result of inflationary adjustments across both post and non-post objects of expenditure amounts to $12.9 million, including a decrease of staff assessment requirements of $0.7 million, which would be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

F. Adjustments to standard costs for the biennium 2016-2017 (increase: $30,322,600)

39. Adjustments to standard costs reflect the net effect of changes in standard salary costs, common staff costs and staff assessment. Revisions to standard salary costs for 2016 are based on the actual payroll averages experienced thus far in the biennium, by category and level, at each duty station. For the present report, the monthly payroll averages from January to September 2016 have been analysed for each category and level compared with those used in the initial appropriation. Projections for 2017 are based on the trends experienced in 2016. A net increase of $22.3 million reflects average net base salary costs that are higher than had been projected in the initial appropriation.

40. Common staff costs are budgeted as a percentage of net salaries for each duty station. Expenditures under common staff costs relate to allowances and benefits, appointments, transfers and separation of staff. Adjustments to common staff costs are based on the analysis of actual common staff costs for all duty stations during the biennium 2014-2015 as well as the experience from January to September 2016, compared with those assumed in the initial appropriation. A net increase of $5.7 million reflects adjustments to the common staff cost rates for all duty stations. The adjustments also include the reduction of $0.9 million in line with General Assembly resolution 70/244 on the financial implications of the implementation of the comprehensive compensation package (see A/70/961, annex II, table 1) and the

increase of $3.2 million reported in A/C.5/71/3 relating to the revised levels of dependency allowances and end-of-service severance pay.

41. The adjustments to standard costs indicated above include an increase of $7.7 million in staff assessment, which is offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1.

G. Vacancy rates (decrease: $34,093,900)

42. In its resolution 70/247, the General Assembly decided that vacancy rates of 9.0 per cent for Professional and 6.0 per cent for General Service posts for continuing posts, and a vacancy rate of 50.0 per cent for new posts for both categories, should be used as a basis for the calculation of the budget for 2016-2017. The average realized vacancy rates from January to September 2016 are 10.1 per cent for Professional posts and 7.1 per cent for General Service posts. The application of the realized vacancy rate to the full biennium 2016-2017 would result in a net decrease of $34.1 million.

43. With regard to field security staff funded under the gross jointly financed budget of the Department of Safety and Security, vacancy rates of 10.1 per cent for Professional posts and 14.2 per cent for General Service posts were used as a basis for the calculation of the budget. The realized vacancy rates are 10.3 per cent for Professional posts and 11.8 per cent for General Service posts. The adjustments to the 2016-2017 vacancy rates would result in an increase of $0.6 million, to be shared with other United Nations system organizations under the cost-sharing formula agreed upon by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination. On the basis of the current ratios, the United Nations share of the increase would amount to $0.1 million, or 22.3 per cent of the increase, which has been included in the amount of $34.1 million mentioned in paragraph 42 above.

H. Summary

44. On the basis of the elements described in the present report, the revised estimates for the biennium 2016-2017 amount to $5,460,675,200, reflecting an increase of $51,955,700, as detailed in table 2.

III. Income sections

Income section 1. Income from staff assessment

45. The changes described under the expenditure sections above and income section 3 below would result in an increase in income from staff assessment of $6.9 million.

Income section 2. General income

46. The increase in general income of $415,600 largely reflects the increase in income from rental of premises, partly offset by a decrease in reimbursement for conference and communication services. The increase in income from rental of

premises is attributable to an increase in space available for rent at the United Nations premises in Nairobi. The revised revenue reflects actuals realized for the period from January to September 2016 and projections for the remainder of the biennium.

Income section 3. Services to the public

47. The decrease of $6,177,400 in net income under services to the public results from the downward revision in estimated revenues in the amount of $6,062,200 and an estimated increase in expenditures in the amount of $115,200 attributable to changes arising from the variations in budgetary assumptions. The decrease in the estimated level of revenues ($6,062,200) is attributable primarily to lower than anticipated revenues from: (a) sales of philatelic items both at Headquarters and Vienna; (b) sales of printed publications; (c) bookings of guided tours at Headquarters; and (d) the temporary suspension of royalty payments from the vendor for Headquarters catering operations as part of an interim agreement. The revised revenue reflects actuals realized for the period from January to September 2016 and projections for the remainder of the biennium.

48. Any further changes to the level of revenues and expenditures during the remainder of the biennium 2016-2017 will be taken into account and reported in the context of the second performance report in accordance with existing practice.

Summary

49. The revised estimates for income for the biennium 2016-2017, based on the elements described above, would be $533,073,000, as summarized below.

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Budget section	*Income estimate*[a]	*Projected change*	*Revised estimates*
Income section 1	486 952.7	6 949.1	493 901.8
Income section 2	41 226.7	415.6	41 642.3
Income section 3	3 706.3	(6 177.4)	(2 471.1)
Total	**531 885.7**	**1 187.3**	**533 073.0**

[a] Resolutions 70/248 B and 70/249 A-C.

IV. Action requested of the General Assembly

50. **The General Assembly is requested to revise the appropriation for the biennium 2016-2017 to the amount of $5,460,675,200 (reflecting an increase of $51,955,700), as set out in paragraph 44 above, and to approve the revised estimates for income in the amount of $533,073,000 (reflecting an increase of $1,187,300), as set out in paragraph 49 above.**

Schedule 1

Rates of exchange relative to the United States dollar and inflation included in the initial appropriation for the biennium 2016-2017 and in the present report, by main duty station

	Rates of exchange			*Rates of inflation applicable to non-post objects of expenditure (percentage)*			
		Performance report		*Initial appropriation*		*Present report*	
Main duty station (currency)	*Initial Appropriation*	*2016*[a]	*2017*[b]	*2016*	*2017*	*2016*	*2017*
Vienna (euro)	0.938	0.906	0.881	1.8	1.9	0.9	1.8
Santiago (Chilean peso)	724.700	680.459	678.713	4.4	3.2	3.9	3.2
Addis Ababa (Ethiopian birr)	21.004	21.816	22.250	8.5	8.3	8.1	7.9
UNMOGIP (rupee)	68.440	67.464	68.741	5.3	5.8	5.5	5.1
Beirut (Lebanese pound)	1 507.450	1 513.796	1 514.000	1.2	2.6	(1.0)	2.2
Gaza/UNRWA/UNTSO (shekel)	3.857	3.831	3.797	1.1	2.0	(0.4)	1.1
Nairobi (Kenya shilling)	107.627	102.059	104.942	5.6	4.9	6.2	5.5
Mexico City (Mexican peso)	16.768	18.378	19.025	4.0	3.7	2.7	3.4
The Hague (euro)	0.938	0.906	0.881	1.2	1.4	0.2	1.0
Bangkok (Thai baht)	36.082	35.250	35.034	1.7	3.0	0.3	1.1
Port of Spain (Trinidad and Tobago dollar)	6.408	6.618	6.705	5.4	5.4	3.7	4.5
New York (United States dollar)	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.6	2.3	1.1	2.1
Geneva (Swiss franc)	1.014	0.989	0.960	(0.1)	0.5	(0.3)	0.5
United Nations information centres[c]	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.6	2.3	1.1	2.1

Abbreviations: UNMOGIP, United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan; UNRWA, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East; UNTSO, United Nations Truce Supervision Organization.

[a] Average of United Nations operational rates of exchange, with actual rates to October 2016 and revised forward rate used for November and December 2016, except for Addis Ababa, Beirut and Port of Spain, for which the October 2016 rate is applied to November and December 2016. In respect of the euro and the Swiss franc, the approved forward rate for 2016 was applied to November and December 2016.

[b] Based on revised forward rates for 2017, except for Addis Ababa, Beirut and Port of Spain, where the October 2016 rate is used.

[c] Combined effect of inflation and exchange rate changes.

Schedule 2

Post adjustment multipliers for 2016 and 2017 applicable to staff in the Professional and higher categories

	Initial appropriation		*First performance report*		*Monthly multipliers for 2016[a]*											
Cost station	*2016*	*2017*	*2016[a]*	*2017[a]*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Vienna	34.40	36.14	39.22	40.70	37.50	42.00	37.80	41.80	42.00	41.30	38.90	40.10	39.90	40.50	34.40	34.40
Santiago	23.55	23.10	27.67	26.90	25.80	25.80	27.40	27.40	27.40	27.40	28.60	28.60	28.60	28.60	28.20	28.20
Addis Ababa	39.90	39.98	39.02	36.80	39.90	39.90	39.30	39.30	39.30	39.30	38.70	38.70	38.70	38.70	38.20	38.20
UNMOGIP	34.92	34.40	35.17	33.00	37.50	37.50	34.50	34.50	34.50	34.50	35.10	35.10	35.10	35.10	34.30	34.30
Beirut	52.25	52.30	52.00	50.40	52.00	52.00	52.00	52.00	52.00	52.00	52.00	52.00	52.00	52.00	52.00	52.00
Gaza/UNRWA/UNTSO	53.32	53.40	52.90	52.00	52.90	52.90	52.60	52.60	52.60	52.60	52.90	52.90	52.90	52.90	53.50	53.50
Nairobi	28.58	28.38	31.35	28.30	31.50	31.50	31.60	31.60	31.60	31.60	31.90	31.90	31.90	31.90	29.60	29.60
Mexico City	39.38	39.30	38.97	36.20	39.80	39.80	40.10	40.10	40.10	40.10	38.10	38.10	38.10	38.10	37.60	37.60
The Hague	28.00	28.64	32.61	34.00	31.00	35.20	31.30	35.10	35.20	34.60	32.30	33.50	33.20	33.90	28.00	28.00
Bangkok	35.62	35.50	36.18	35.10	36.20	36.20	36.10	36.10	36.10	36.10	36.10	36.10	36.10	36.10	36.50	36.50
Port of Spain	45.12	45.00	44.02	42.03	45.70	45.70	44.40	44.40	44.40	44.40	43.40	43.40	43.40	43.40	42.80	42.80
New York	64.90	65.45	64.90	63.48	64.90	64.90	64.90	64.90	64.90	64.90	64.90	64.90	64.90	64.90	64.90	64.90
Security field offices	48.50	51.90	47.70	50.80	47.70	47.70	47.70	47.70	47.70	47.70	47.70	47.70	47.70	47.70	47.70	47.70
Geneva	80.00	80.00	85.33	87.30	83.90	87.00	82.80	88.80	87.70	88.00	85.90	87.00	85.40	87.50	80.00	80.00
United Nations information centres	54.80	58.40	54.00	55.60	54.00	54.00	54.00	54.00	54.00	54.00	54.00	54.00	54.00	54.00	54.00	54.00

Abbreviations: UNMOGIP, United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan; UNRWA, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East; UNTSO, United Nations Truce Supervision Organization.

[a] Average of actual post adjustment multipliers to October and projected multipliers for November and December.

Schedule 3

Rates of exchange against the United States dollar for 2016, by duty station

	Initial appropriation	*Performance report*		*Variance (percentage)*		*Monthly operational rates of exchange*[a]											
Duty station	*2016-2017*	*2016*[b]	*2017*[c]	*2016*	*2017*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Vienna	0.938	0.906	0.881	3.53	6.47	0.914	0.915	0.912	0.883	0.882	0.897	0.904	0.901	0.897	0.897	0.938	0.938
Santiago	724 700	680 459	678 753	6.50	6.77	707 000	710 000	689 000	676 000	665 000	688 000	674 000	665 000	675 000	659 000	678 753	678 753
Addis Ababa	21 004	21 816	22 250	(3.72)	(5.60)	21 175	21 280	21 460	21 513	21 660	21 700	21 893	22 050	22 313	22 250	22 250	22 250
UNMOGIP	68 440	67 464	68 741	1.45	(0.44)	66 400	68 230	68 630	66 390	66 520	67 040	67 950	67 040	67 030	66 860	68 741	68 741
Beirut	1 507 450	1 513 796	1 514 000	(0.42)	(0.43)	1 513 500	1 513 500	1 513 500	1 513 750	1 514 000	1 513 800	1 514 000	1 514 000	1 513 500	1 514 000	1 514 000	1 514 000
Gaza/UNRWA/ UNTSO	3 857	3 831	3 797	0.68	1.58	3 883	3 953	3 905	3 778	3 760	3 847	3 878	3 823	3 793	3 758	3 797	3 797
Nairobi	107 627	102 059	104 942	5.46	2.56	102 190	102 300	101 710	101 380	101 230	100 680	101 200	101 400	101 380	101 350	104 942	104 942
Mexico	16 768	18 378	19 025	(8.76)	(11.86)	17 170	18 270	18 170	17 240	17 240	18 480	18 880	18 830	18 770	19 430	19 025	19 025
The Hague	0.938	0.906	0.881	3.53	6.47	0.914	0.915	0.912	0.883	0.882	0.797	0.904	0.901	0.897	0.892	0.938	0.938
Bangkok	36 082	35 250	35 034	2.36	2.99	36 080	35 790	35 730	35 250	35 060	35 700	35 260	34 850	34 570	34 640	35 034	35 034
Port of Spain	6 408	6 618	6 705	(3.17)	(4.63)	6 338	6 467	6 524	6 601	6 644	6 657	6 654	6 700	6 705	6 705	6 705	6 705
Geneva	1 014	0 989	0 960	2.53	5.62	0 991	1 013	0 997	0 963	0 969	0 992	0 979	0 980	0 982	0 970	1 014	1 014

Abbreviations: UNMOGIP, United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan; UNRWA, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East; UNTSO, United Nations Truce Supervision Organization.

[a] Average of United Nations operational rates of exchange, with actual rates to October 2016 and revised forward rate used for November and December 2016, except for Addis Ababa, Beirut, and Port of Spain, for which the October 2016 rate is applied to November and December 2016. In respect of the Euro and Swiss franc, the approved forward rate for 2016 was applied to November and December 2016.

[b] Based on revised forward rates for 2017, except for Addis Ababa, Beirut and Port of Spain, for which the October 2016 rate is used.

Schedule 4

Cost-of-living adjustments: General Service and related categories

(Percentage)

	Initial appropriation		*Adjusted rates used in performance report*	
Cost station	*2016*	*2017*	*2016*	*2017*
Vienna	1.8	1.9	1.1	1.8
Santiago	4.4	3.2	2.3	3.2
Addis Ababa	8.5	8.3	1.4	7.9
UNMOGIP	5.3	5.8	3.6	5.1
Beirut	1.2	2.6	–	2.2
Gaza/UNRWA/UNTSO	1.1	2.0	1.7	1.1
Nairobi	5.6	4.9	3.8	5.5
Mexico	4.0	3.7	–	3.4
The Hague	1.2	1.4	–	1.0
Bangkok	1.7	3.0	–	1.1
Port of Spain	5.4	5.4	8.2	4.5
New York	–	–	–	–
Security field offices	–	–	–	–
Geneva	(0.1)	0.5	–	–
United Nations information centres	–	–	–	–

Abbreviations: UNMOGIP, United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan; UNRWA, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East; UNTSO, United Nations Truce Supervision Organization.

Annex I

Projected changes in the budget estimates for the biennium 2016-2017

A. By budget section and main determining factor

(Thousands of United States dollars)

			Projected changes								
	Expenditure section	2016-2017 appropriation[a]	Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses	Decisions of Policymaking organs	Exchange rate	Inflation	Adjustment to standards	Vacancies	Total	Revised estimates	Percentage variance
1	Overall policymaking, direction and coordination	117 428.0	–	–	682.7	184.9	263.9	(803.5)	328.0	117 756.0	0.3
2	General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	618 122.2	576.6	–	11 247.9	(1 368.6)	3 119.5	(5 984.2)	7 591.2	625 713.4	1.2
3	Political affairs	1 240 398.0	1 894.1	–	222.0	41.0	183.9	(1 111.3)	1 229.7	1 241 627.7	0.1
4	Disarmament	24 950.7	–	–	141.2	(63.8)	56.4	(215.6)	(81.8)	24 868.9	(0.3)
5	Peacekeeping operations	109 624.0	–	–	647.2	(183.9)	425.1	(864.0)	24.4	109 648.4	0.0
6	Peaceful uses of outer space	7 162.3	–	–	146.0	(50.9)	37.5	(72.3)	60.3	7 222.6	0.8
7	International Court of Justice	45 975.7	50.0	–	889.3	(1 156.2)	205.6	(275.7)	(287.0)	45 688.7	(0.6)
8	Legal affairs	48 845.9	–	12 371.2	265.5	(112.5)	106.9	(482.4)	12 148.7	60 994.6	24.9
9	Economic and social affairs	157 717.8	–	–	–	(190.1)	220.4	(1 684.2)	(1 653.9)	156 063.9	(1.0)
10	Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	10 912.5	–	–	–	(16.7)	(20.7)	(112.1)	(149.5)	10 763.0	(1.4)
11	United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development	16 798.3	–	–	(68.5)	12.7	27.0	(163.7)	(192.5)	16 605.8	(1.1)
12	Trade and development	135 159.4	–	–	3 494.4	(125.2)	877.2	(1 520.6)	2 725.8	137 885.2	2.0
13	International Trade Centre	35 697.3	–	–	1 491.6	(97.1)	–	–	1 394.5	37 091.8	3.9
14	Environment	35 331.4	–	–	1 198.9	(477.1)	1 399.6	(355.5)	1 765.9	37 097.3	5.0
15	Human settlements	20 806.8	–	–	618.1	(253.2)	622.5	(216.8)	770.6	21 577.4	3.7

	Expenditure section	2016-2017 appropriation	Projected changes: Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses	Projected changes: Decisions of policy-making organs	Projected changes: Exchange rate	Projected changes: Inflation	Projected changes: Adjustment to standards	Projected changes: Vacancy	Projected changes: Total	Revised estimates	Percentage variance
16	International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice	36 917.6	–	–	769.3	(282.6)	171.0	(385.1)	272.6	37 190.2	0.7
17	UN-Women	15 256.4	–	–		(17.3)	18.5	(167.9)	(166.7)	15 089.7	(1.1)
18	Economic and social development in Africa	153 650.3	–	–	(4 388.0)	874.2	4 263.9	(1 170.9)	(420.8)	153 229.5	(0.3)
19	Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific	94 646.2	–	–	2 435.2	(2 164.5)	289.9	(1 013.2)	(452.6)	94 193.6	(0.5)
20	Economic development in Europe	64 870.9	–	–	1 634.7	(48.5)	249.8	(768.4)	1 067.6	65 938.5	1.6
21	Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean	105 299.7	–	–	2 820.1	(494.9)	(22.9)	(1 055.0)	1 247.3	106 547.0	1.2
22	Economic and social development in Western Asia	69 369.4	–	–	(294.7)	(403.0)	206.8	(692.4)	(1 183.3)	68 186.1	(1.7)
23	Regular programme of technical cooperation	54 763.4	–	–	166.1	(448.4)	–	–	(282.3)	54 481.1	(0.5)
24	Human rights	191 574.9	4 893.7	–	3 858.2	(457.0)	1 061.0	(1 594.6)	7 761.3	199 336.2	4.1
25	International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees	82 204.9	–	–	3 401.5	(220.0)	(8.6)	(15.2)	3 157.7	85 362.6	3.8
26	Palestine refugees	55 592.9	–	–	609.3	(566.8)	157.6	(655.7)	(455.6)	55 137.3	(0.8)
27	Humanitarian assistance	34 725.9	–	–	494.7	(38.2)	23.6	(289.1)	191.0	34 916.9	0.6
28	Public information	188 021.9	–	–	467.3	(411.8)	1 284.2	(1 808.8)	(469.1)	187 552.8	(0.2)
29A	Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management	22 677.0	–	–		(12.9)	1.4	(164.7)	(176.2)	22 500.8	(0.8)
29B	Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts	35 043.5	–	–		(36.8)	87.9	(388.5)	(337.4)	34 706.1	(1.0)
29C	Office of Human Resources Management	70 800.1	–	–	14.8	(228.6)	167.8	(465.8)	(511.8)	70 288.3	(0.7)

	Expenditure section	2016-2017 appropriation[a]	Projected changes							Revised estimate	Percentage variance
			Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses	Decisions of policymaking organs	Exchange rate	Inflation	Adjustment to standards	Vacancy	Total		
29D	Office of Central Support Services	166 585.3	–	–		(654.2)	525.4	1 677.9)	(806.7)	165 778.6	(0.5)
29E	Office of Information and Communications Technology	98 461.8	–	–	78.8	(418.8)	169.1	(519.9)	(690.8)	97 771.0	(0.7)
29F	Administration, Geneva	134 658.7	12.2	–	4 240.7	(291.1)	1 728.4	(1 008.3)	4 681.9	139 340.6	3.5
29G	Administration, Vienna	33 204.2	-	–	1 128.5	(259.9)	156.3	(198.3)	826.6	34 030.8	2.5
29H	Administration, Nairobi	28 157.3	–	–	984.6	(162.7)	676.7	(250.2)	1 248.4	29 405.7	4.4
30	Internal oversight	40 213.8	–	–	298.1	(118.5)	163.5	(408.5)	(65.4)	40 148.4	(0.2)
31	Jointly financed administrative activities	11 448.2	–	–	143.9	(3.3)	11.8	(97.0)	55.4	11 503.6	0.5
32	Special expenses	153 244.8	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	153 244.8	–
33	Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance	97 091.1	–	379.5	762.6	(226.9)	–	–	915.2	98 006.3	0.9
34	Safety and security	234 295.4	725.6	–	2 562.4	(1 226.0)	3 723.0	(1 797.0)	3 988.0	238 283.4	1.7
35	Development Account	28 398.8	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	28 398.8	–
36	Staff assessment	482 614.8	–	–	4 509.8	(674.9)	7 691.7	(4 639.6)	6 887.0	489 501.8	1.4
	Total	**5 408 719.5**	**8 152.2**	**12 750.7**	**47 674.2**	**(12 850.1)**	**30 322.6**	**(34 093.9)**	**51 955.7**	**5 460 675.2**	**1.0**

[a] General Assembly resolutions 70/248 B, 70/248 C and 70/249 A-C.

B. By duty station and main determining factor

(Thousands of United States dollars)

		Projected changes								
Duty station	*2016-2017 appropriation*	*Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses*	*Decisions of policymaking organs*	*Exchange rate*	*Inflation*	*Adjustment to standards*	*Vacancy*	*Total*	*Revised estimates*	*Percentage variance*
New York	3 068 163.7	1 894.10	12 371.2		(2 887.8)	7 836.4	(15 243.0)	3 970.9	3 072 134.6	0.1
Geneva	1 128 450.5	6 208.10	–	31 798.8	(1 663.7)	8 133.3	(9 212.2)	35 264.3	1 163 714.8	3.1
Vienna	163 921.0	–	–	8 195.3	(1 157.4)	904.3	(1 071.2)	6 871.0	170 792.0	4.2
Santiago	113 355.6	–	–	5 173.8	(1 480.4)	616.4	(1 099.7)	3 210.1	116 565.7	2.8
Addis Ababa	212 852.6	–	–	(5 301.2)	292.8	5 700.1	(1 428.5)	(736.8)	212 115.8	(0.3)
Beirut	105 019.7	–	–	(426.2)	(841.5)	1 320.6	(1 017.3)	(964.4)	104 055.3	(0.9)
Nairobi	125 338.0	–	–	3 937.6	(952.6)	4 358.8	(1 174.2)	6 169.6	131 507.6	4.9
Bangkok	141 521.5	–	379.5	3 401.3	(3 015.1)	834.5	(1 425.9)	174.3	141 695.8	0.1
Other[a]	350 096.9	50.00	–	894.8	(1 144.4)	618.2	(2 421.9)	(2 003.3)	348 093.6	(0.6)
Total	**5 408 719.5**	**8 152.2**	**12 750.7**	**47 674.2**	**(12 850.1)**	**30 322.6**	**(34 093.9)**	**51 955.7**	**5 460 675.2**	**1.0**

[a] Includes the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan, the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, Gaza, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, Mexico City, The Hague, Port of Spain, the United Nations information centres and the regular budget share of contributions to inter-agency security measures.

Annex II

Estimated increases or decreases in requirements for jointly financed activities and inter-organizational security measures (gross budget) for the biennium 2016-2017, by main determining factor

(Thousands of United States dollars)

		Projected changes							
	2016-2017 appropriation	*Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses*	*Exchange rate*	*Inflation*	*Adjustment to standards*	*Vacancy*	*Total*	*Revised estimates*	*Percentage variance*
Conference services, Vienna (gross budget)	52 321.2	—	3 919.0	(392.8)	373.4	(485.0)	3 414.6	55 735.8	6.5
International Civil Service Commission	18 225.6	—	—	(43.9)	29.6	(146.7)	(161.0)	18 064.6	(0.9)
Inter-organizational security measures	263 409.1	—	1 323.8	(684.2)	437.2	(15.9)	1 060.9	264 470.0	0.4
United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination	6 183.8	—	112.7	(6.9)	8.1	(58.4)	55.5	6 239.3	0.9
Joint Inspection Unit	13 000.2	—	504.4	(7.7)	0.6	(150.5)	346.8	13 347.0	2.7
Total	**353 139.90**	**—**	**5 859.9**	**(1 135.5)**	**848.9**	**(856.5)**	**4 716.8**	**357 856.7**	**1.3**

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Annex III

Expenditures incurred under the regular budget for the biennium 2016-2017 as at 30 September 2016

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Appropriation[a]		5 408 719.5
Unliquidated obligations	124 059.1	
Disbursements	1 912 498.6	
Total expenditures		2 036 557.7
Uncommitted balance		**3 372 161.8**

[a] Includes the initial appropriation (General Assembly resolutions 70/249 A-C) and subsequent appropriations (resolutions 70/248 B and C).

United Nations A/71/577

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Seventy-first session
Agenda item 146
Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994

Final performance report on the budget of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda for the biennium 2016-2017: liquidation

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

By its resolution 70/241 of 23 December 2015, the General Assembly decided to appropriate to the Special Account for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda a total amount of $2,086,100 gross ($1,978,800 net) for the biennium 2016-2017 for the liquidation activities of the Tribunal.

The purpose of the present performance report on the budget of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda is to provide an estimate of the final level of resources required for the biennium 2016-2017 for the liquidation activities of the Tribunal. The estimate is based on actual expenditures recorded to date, including provisions and adjustments for separation and other staff costs, and amounts to $5,812,800 gross ($5,444,800 net).

The General Assembly is requested to approve the final appropriation for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda for the biennium 2016-2017 in the amount of $2,086,100 gross ($1,978,800 net), as initially appropriated by the Assembly in resolution 70/241, and to approve the transfer and charge of $3,726,700 gross ($3,466,000 net) as part of the estimated final expenditure, and further expenditures, if any, in excess of the approved appropriation for that purpose, under the 2016-2017 budget for the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, to be reported in the context of the second performance report on the budget of the Mechanism.

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I. Introduction

1. By its resolution 70/241 of 23 December 2015, the General Assembly appropriated to the Special Account for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda a total amount of $2,086,100 gross ($1,978,800 net) for the biennium 2016-2017 for the liquidation activities of the Tribunal.

2. The present report on the budget of the Tribunal provides an estimate of the final level of resources required for the biennium 2016-2017 for the liquidation activities of the Tribunal. The report is based on actual expenditures to date, including provisions for separation entitlements and other known costs, compared with the amounts and assumptions contained in the budget for the biennium 2016-2017 approved by the General Assembly at its seventieth session (resolution 70/241).

3. The activities of the Tribunal during 2016 were liquidation-based and included, but were not limited to, the preparation of financial statements, the provision of support to the audit of the Tribunal's operations for the biennium 2014-2015 by the Board of Auditors, the disposal of assets of the Tribunal, the repatriation of staff members and their families, the processing of staff separation and final entitlements, the settlement of liabilities and the recovery of receivables, the finalization of the Tribunal's cases pending at the Management Evaluation Unit or the United Nations Dispute Tribunal, the dismantling of the temporary structures, the repair and handover of the rented premises to the Arusha International Conference Centre and handover to the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals.

4. The liquidation was expected to be completed by 31 May 2016; however, the liquidation process experienced some delays, specifically in the finalization and certification of the 2015 accounts, the disposal of assets, including the transfer of assets to other entities and government institutions, the reconciliation of accounts and the conversion of balances in Umoja, the handover and transfer of balances to the Mechanism, the handover of rented premises to the Arusha International Conference Centre and the finalization of other administrative matters. In that regard, an extension of two months was needed to allow for the completion of pending activities in order to ensure a smooth transition and final closure of the Tribunal.

5. The estimated final level of expenditures relating to liquidation activities for the Tribunal for the biennium 2016-2017 amounts to $5,812,800 gross ($5,444,800 net), reflecting an increase of $3,726,700 gross ($3,466,000 net) over the approved appropriation. The increase reflects the higher staff costs resulting from increased requirements for the settlement of education grant claims and separation entitlements for former staff members of the Tribunal that had to be settled against the 2016 appropriation, as well as increased salary costs linked to the extension of the liquidation period by an additional two months, from 1 June to 31 July 2016, and the related staff assessment; and an increase in non-staff expenditures relating mainly to the write-off of non-recoverable receivables. The anticipated final level of income from staff assessment for the biennium 2016-2017 amounts to $368,000, reflecting an increase of $260,700. Consequently, the combined effect of the anticipated final levels of expenditures and income for the

biennium 2016-2017 amounts to an increase of $3,726,700 gross ($3,466,000 net). It is proposed that the estimated final expenditure and further expenditures, if any, relating to the Tribunal be met through the transfer and charge of $3,726,700 gross ($3,466,000 net) as part of the estimated final expenditure, in excess of the approved appropriation for that purpose, under the 2016-2017 budget for the International Residual Mechanism, to be reported in the context of the second performance report of the Mechanism.

II. Justifications for the variances in expenditure requirements

6. The estimated final level of expenditures for the liquidation activities of the Tribunal amounts to $5,812,800 gross ($5,444,800 net), as shown in the table. An explanation of the variances against the initial appropriation by expenditure group is provided in the paragraphs below.

Projected variances, by object of expenditure

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	*2016 appropriation*	*Variances*	*Projected final expenditure*
Expenditure			
Other staff costs	1 479.9	3 304.4	4 784.3
Travel of staff	28.4	13.8	42.2
Contractual services	95.9	(3.7)	92.2
General operating expenses	353.0	172.9	525.9
Supplies and materials	18.8	(18.6)	0.2
Furniture and equipment	2.8	(2.8)	–
Staff assessment	107.3	260.7	368.0
Total expenditure (gross)	**2 086.1**	**3 726.7**	**5 812.8**
Income			
Staff assessment	107.3	260.7	368.0
Total requirements (net)	**1 978.8**	**3 466.0**	**5 444.8**

Other staff costs (increase: $3,304,400)

7. The increase under other staff costs is attributable to additional costs associated with the separation entitlements, the settlement of education grant claims for the 2015/16 scholastic year in 2016 and the need for extension of the liquidation period by two months from the end of May to the end of July 2016. The increase includes:

(a) An amount of $1,753,000 in additional costs relating to separation entitlements for staff members who separated during the biennium 2014-2015, as well as for some continuing staff members who separated in 2016. At the end of 2015, the Tribunal made a provision of $3.2 million against the budget for the

biennium 2014-2015 for the settlement of staff separation entitlements. However, the amount of claims processed and settled in 2016 proved to be significantly higher than the provision made, resulting in an overexpenditure of $1,753,000 that had to be charged against the 2016 budget, since it was no longer possible to charge such costs against the 2014-2015 budget;

(b) An amount of $1,177,500 in additional requirements relating to the settlement in 2016 of education grant advances paid out to staff members in 2015 in respect of the 2015/16 scholastic year. It is normal practice to settle education grants for a scholastic year at the end of the same scholastic year; hence, the settlement of the 2015/16 claims against the 2016 budget resulted in increased expenditure on education grants;

(c) An amount of $373,900 in additional requirements relating to the extension of the liquidation period from the five months initially budgeted (January 2016 to 31 May 2016) to seven months (January 2016 to 31 July 2016) in order to conclude the remaining liquidation activities of the Tribunal, including support for the finalization and certification of the 2015 accounts, the preparation of the 2016 financial statements for the Tribunal, the disposal of assets, including the transfer of assets to other entities and to government institutions, reconciliations and the conversion of balances in Umoja, the processing of separation entitlements for former staff members, the handover and transfer of balances and pending contracts with suppliers to the International Residual Mechanism, the handover of rented premises to the Arusha International Conference Centre and the finalization of other administrative matters. This extension resulted in an increase in the number of work-months from 175 (initially budgeted) to 219, resulting in increased staff costs.

Travel (increase: $13,800)

8. The increase is mainly attributable to: (a) the increased costs of air tickets for the three missions by Tribunal staff to New York in connection with budget and finance, human resources and other liquidation issues (actual average cost of $9,500 per trip compared with $6,500 budgeted), resulting in an increase of $9,000; (b) an additional daily subsistence allowance payment of $2,300 resulting from the extension of the duration of one of the missions to New York for one additional week in order to finalize the 2015 accounts; and (c) the settlement of a travel advance for a staff member amounting to $2,500 relating to official travel that had taken place during the biennium 2014-2015, which had to be charged to the 2016 budget following the closure of the 2014-2015 accounts.

Contractual services (decrease: $3,700)

9. The decrease is attributable mainly to the lower actual fee for external audit than budgeted, which is offset in part by the increased cost of information technology services owing to additional Internet charges linked to the extension of the liquidation period of the Tribunal from 31 May to 31 July 2016.

General operating expenses (increase: $172,900)

10. The increase under general operating expenses is mainly attributable to: (a) the write-off of long-outstanding receivables amounting to $278,200, for which extensive efforts have been made by the Tribunal to recover the amounts involved

from the former staff members and/or debtors to no avail and the likelihood or probability of recovery in the future has been assessed to be very low; and (b) additional costs of $31,600 relating to the rental of premises owing to the extension of the liquidation period. The increase is offset in part by: (a) reduced requirements ($70,000) for maintenance services owing to lower vehicle and facility repairs linked to the winding down of the operation; (b) a decrease in electricity, water and fuel costs ($39,500) resulting from the occupancy of less office space than originally foreseen; and (c) reduced communications costs ($29,000) owing to lower and more efficient use of communications equipment and services.

Supplies and materials (decrease: $18,600)

11. The decrease is due mainly to lower acquisition of petrol, stationery and other supplies resulting from the utilization of the available stock of supplies and materials procured in 2015.

Furniture and equipment (decrease: $2,800)

12. The decrease mainly reflects the non-use of the provision for miscellaneous office equipment.

III. Action to be taken by the General Assembly

13. **The General Assembly is requested:**

(a) **To approve the final appropriation for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda for the biennium 2016-2017 in the amount of $2,086,100 gross ($1,978,800 net) as initially appropriated by the Assembly in resolution 70/241;**

(b) **To approve the transfer and charge of $3,726,700 gross ($3,466,000 net) as part of the estimated final expenditure, and further expenditures, if any, in excess of the approved appropriation for that purpose, under the 2016-2017 budget for the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, to be reported in the context of the second performance report on the budget of the Mechanism.**

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Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

First performance report of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia for the biennium 2016-2017

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report identifies revised estimates for the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia as a result of variations in costing parameters assumed at the time of the initial appropriation. The increased requirements are a result of contributing factors, including an increase in requirements relating to exchange rates and standard costs, offset in part by reductions relating to inflation and vacancy rates. The General Assembly is requested to approve a revised appropriation for the biennium 2016-2017 in the amount of $98,064,000 gross ($86,737,900 net), reflecting an increase of $2,316,900 gross ($1,893,300 net).

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I. Introduction

1. The primary purpose of the first performance report is to identify revised estimates for the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia owing to variations in the rates of inflation and exchange and in the standards and vacancy rates assumed in the calculation of the initial appropriation.

2. The gross increase in requirements of $2,316,900 resulting from these technical adjustments is shown in tables 1 and 2 below. Table 1 reflects the changes by component and main determining factors, and table 2 reflects the changes by object of expenditure and main determining factors.

3. Explanations of the variations in the costing parameters assumed in the calculation of the initial appropriation are provided in the paragraphs below. In addition, the annex to the report provides the budgetary assumptions used in the initial appropriation for the biennium 2016-2017 and the rates proposed in the present report.

Table 1

Summary of projected expenditures and income by component and main determining factors

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Component	*2016-2017 appropriation*[a]	*Projected changes*					*Prop re appropri*
		Exchange rate	*Inflation*	*Standard costs*	*Vacancy rates*	*Total*	
A. Chambers	7 671.4	162.8	(324.0)	–	–	(161.2)	7 5
B. Office of the Prosecutor	15 963.4	612.1	(93.4)	(136.9)	(201.8)	180.0	16 1
C. Registry	72 112.3	3 023.8	(659.2)	482.8	(549.3)	2 298.1	74 4
Total expenditure (gross)	**95 747.1**	**3 798.7**	**(1 076.6)**	**345.9**	**(751.1)**	**2 316.9**	**98 0**
Income							
Staff assessment	10 722.5	319.7	(74.9)	276.6	(97.8)	423.6	11 1
Other income	180.0	–	–	–	–	–	1
Total (net)	**84 844.6**	**3 479.0**	**(1 001.7)**	**69.3**	**(653.3)**	**1 893.3**	**86 7**

[a] As approved in resolution 70/242.

Table 2

Summary of projected expenditures by object of expenditure and main determining factors

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Component	*2016-2017 appropriation*[a]	*Projected changes*					*Prop re appropri*
		Exchange rate	*Inflation*	*Standard costs*	*Vacancy rates*	*Total*	
Posts	39 869.6	1 637.0	(258.2)	69.3	(653.3)	794.8	40 6
Other staff costs	21 153.2	993.3	(242.8)	–	–	750.5	21 9
Non-staff compensation	7 526.0	161.9	(322.9)	–	–	(161.0)	7 3
Consultants	92.5	4.1	(1.2)	–	–	2.9	

Component	2016-2017 appropriation[a]	Projected changes					Proposed revised appropriation
		Exchange rate	Inflation	Standard costs	Vacancy rates	Total	
Experts	39.4	2.2	(0.4)	–	–	1.8	41.2
Travel of staff	1 251.6	0.0	(7.0)	–	–	(7.0)	1 244.6
Contractual services	7 707.1	332.1	(84.3)	–	–	247.8	7 954.9
General operating expenses	6 798.5	323.1	(78.6)	–	–	244.5	7 043.0
Hospitality	10.9	0.4	(0.2)	–	–	0.2	11.1
Supplies and materials	215.0	10.3	(2.5)	–	–	7.8	222.8
Furniture and equipment	317.6	12.7	(3.3)	–	–	9.4	327.0
Improvement of premises	30.8	1.9	(0.3)	–	–	1.6	32.4
Grants and contributions	12.4	–	–	–	–	–	12.4
Staff assessment	10 722.5	319.7	(74.9)	276.6	(97.8)	423.6	11 146.1
Total (gross)	**95 747.1**	**3 798.7**	**(1 076.6)**	**345.9**	**(751.1)**	**2 316.9**	**98 064.0**
Income							
Staff assessment	10 722.5	319.7	(74.9)	276.6	(97.8)	423.6	11 146.1
Other income	180.0	–	–	–	–	–	180.0
Total (net)	**84 844.6**	**3 479.0**	**(1 001.7)**	**69.3**	**(653.3)**	**1 893.3**	**86 737.9**

[a] As approved in resolution 70/242.

II. Explanation of the variances in gross requirements

4. The variances resulting from the main determining factors reflected in tables 1 and 2 amount to an increase of $2,316,900 in expenditure requirements, for a total revised appropriation of $98,064,000 (gross). Details are set out below (in thousands of United States dollars).

Appropriation[a]	**95 747.1**	
Variances relating to changes in budgetary assumptions on:		
Exchange rates	3 798.7	Based on United Nations operational rates of exchange
Inflation assumptions	(1 076.6)	Based on consumer price indices, post adjustment multipliers promulgated and actual versus budgeted cost-of-living adjustments
Standard salary and common staff costs	345.9	Based on analysis of actual payroll data, common staff costs and staff assessment provisions
Vacancy rates	(751.1)	Based on analysis of actual vacancy rates
Revised total	**98 064.0**	

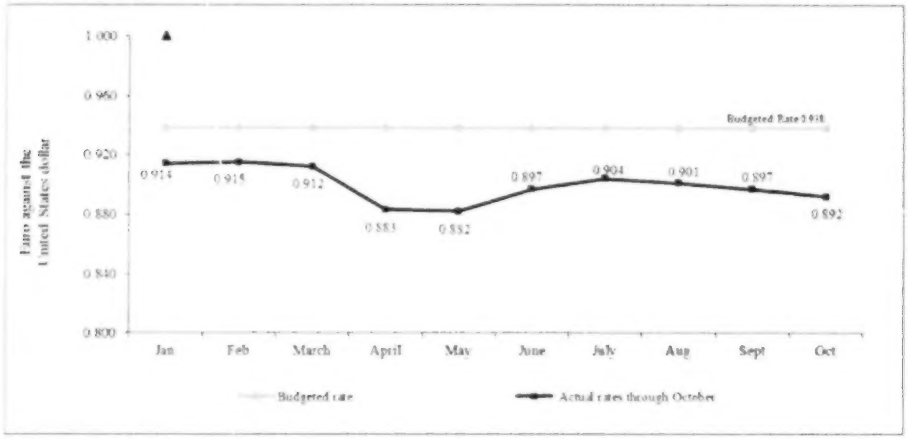
[a] As approved in resolution 70/242.

A. Exchange rates

(Increase: $3,798,700)

5. As indicated in the proposed budgets for the biennium 2016-2017 for the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the proposed budgets are recosted in line with the standard regular budget recosting methodology (see A/70/397, para. 12). In line with section IX of General Assembly resolution 69/274 A, the budgeted exchange rate approved in the initial appropriation was based on forward exchange rates for the euro. In the present performance report, the exchange rate for the euro realized from January to October 2016 has been applied to 2016, and the forward exchange rate approved for 2016 has been applied to November and December 2016. For 2017, the revised forward rate for the euro has been applied. The increase of $3,798,700 reflects requirements for the biennium 2016-2017 owing mainly to the depreciation of the United States dollar against the euro (see figure below).

Figure
Performance of the euro against the United States dollar: 2016



B. Inflation assumptions

(Decrease: $1,076,600)

6. The revised projected inflation rates applied to all objects of expenditure in The Hague are based on: (a) post adjustment multipliers that have been promulgated by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) for staff in the Professional and higher categories for the period from January to October 2016 and projections made by ICSC on the basis of updated parameters for exchange rates and inflation; (b) actual versus budgeted cost-of-living adjustments based on prevailing market conditions for staff in the General Service and related categories as experienced in 2016 and projections for 2017; and (c) the latest available information on consumer price indices as derived from *The Economist* for non-post objects of expenditure.

7. The decreased requirements relate mainly to a decrease in requirements under posts and non-post objects of expenditures owing to lower inflation rates than those assumed in the initial appropriation.

C. Standard salary and common staff costs

(Increase: $345,900)

8. The increase of $345,900 reflects the net effect of adjustments to standard salary costs, common staff costs and staff assessment rates. Revisions to standard salary costs for 2016 are based on the actual payroll averages experienced thus far in the biennium, by category and level. For the present report, the Tribunal's monthly payroll averages from January to September 2016 were analysed for each category and level and compared with those used in the initial appropriation. Projections for 2017 are based on the trends experienced in 2016.

9. Common staff costs are budgeted as a percentage of net salaries for each duty station. Expenditures under common staff costs relate to allowances and benefits, appointments, transfers and separation of staff. Adjustments to common staff costs are based on the analysis of actual common staff costs for the Tribunal during the biennium 2014-2015 as well as the experience thus far in 2016 compared with those assumed in the initial appropriation.

D. Vacancy rates

(Decrease: $751,100)

10. The decrease of $751,100 results from adjustments made to the 2016-2017 vacancy rates to take into account the experience realized in 2016, as reflected in the annex to the present report.

III. Action to be taken by the General Assembly

11. **The General Assembly is requested:**

(a) **To take note of the present report;**

(b) **To approve a revised appropriation for the biennium 2016-2017 in the amount of $98,064,000 gross ($86,737,900 net), reflecting an increase of $2,316,900 gross ($1,893,300 net).**

Annex

Budgetary assumptions for the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia for the biennium 2016-2017

	Initial appropriation		*Proposed estimates for the revised appropriation*	
Budget parameters	*2016*	*2017*	*2016*	*2017*
Rate of exchange[a]	0.938	0.938	0.906	0.881
Inflation rate (percentage)	1.2	1.4	0.2	1.0
Post adjustment multiplier (percentage)	28.00	28.64	32.61	34.00
Common staff costs rate (percentage)	37.6	37.6	34.8	34.8
Vacancy rates for posts (percentage)				
Professional and higher categories	4.2	4.2	6.9	6.9
General Service and related categories	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.7

[a] Euro to United States dollar.